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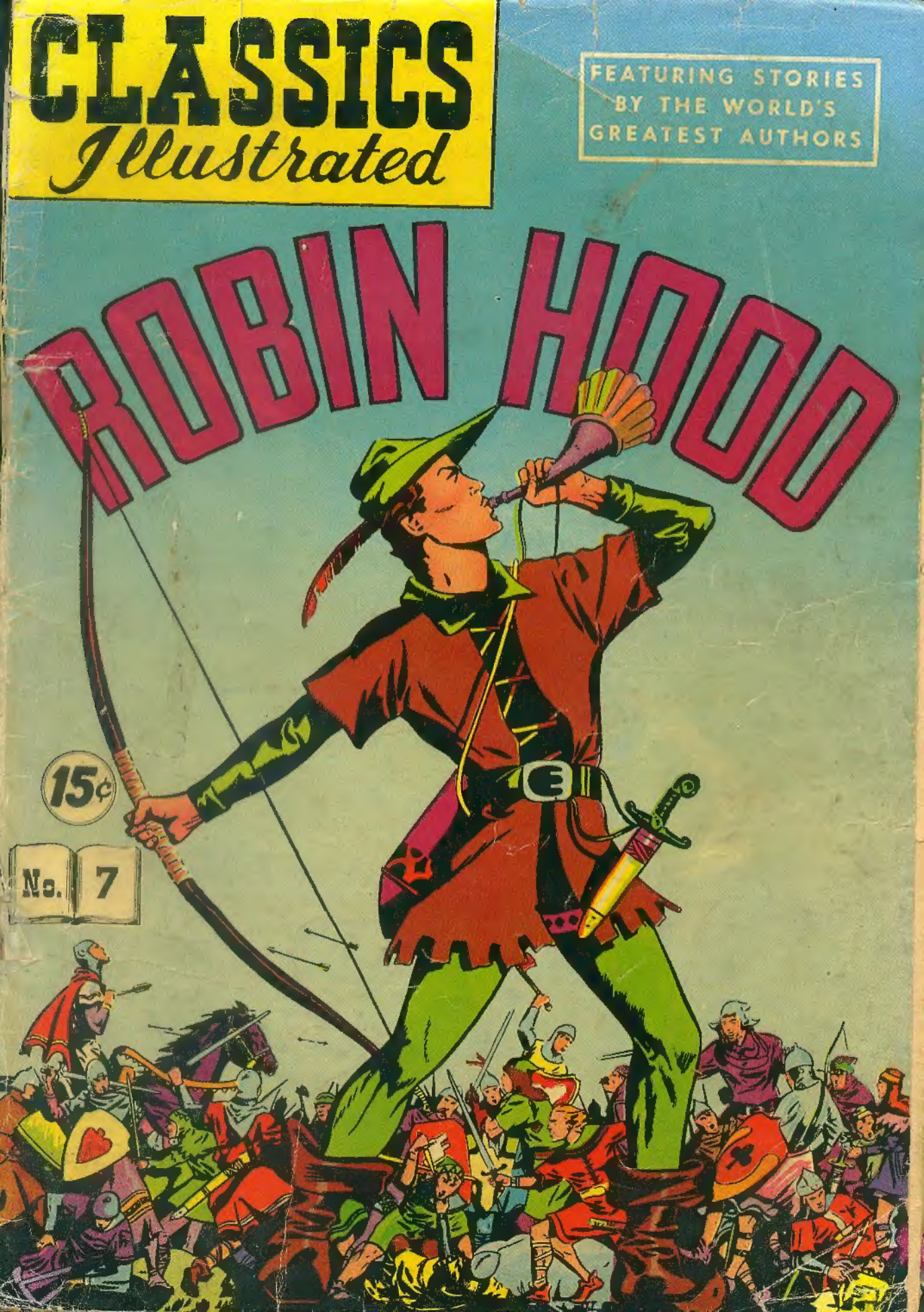
FEATURING STORIES BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST AUTHORS

# ROBIN HOOD



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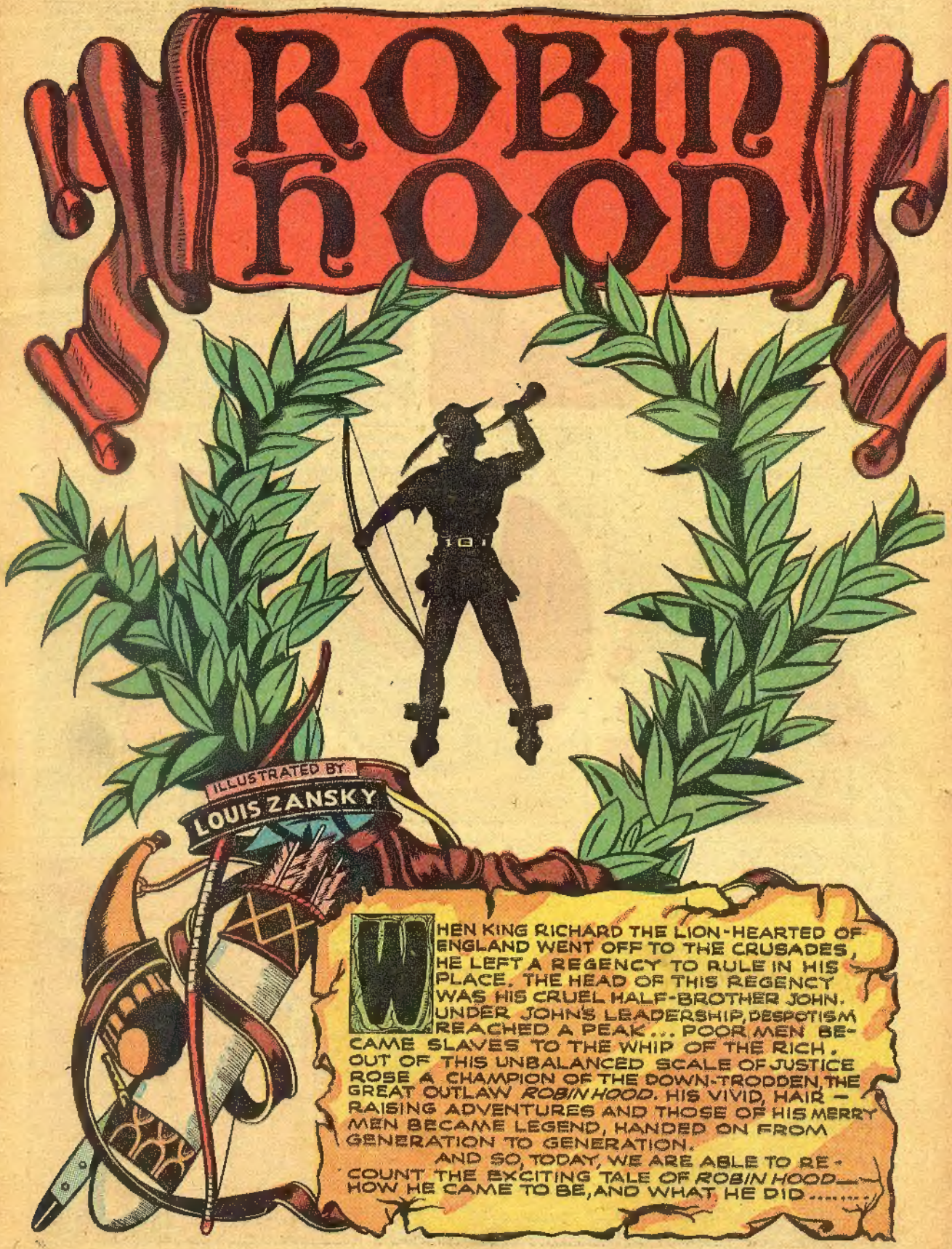
# ROBIN HOOD




WHEN KING RICHARD THE LION-HEARTED OF ENGLAND WENT OFF TO THE CRUSADES, HE LEFT A REGENCY TO RULE IN HIS PLACE. THE HEAD OF THIS REGENCY WAS HIS CRUEL HALF-BROTHER JOHN. UNDER JOHN'S LEADERSHIP, DESPOTISM REACHED A PEAK ... POOR MEN BECAME SLAVES TO THE WHIP OF THE RICH. OUT OF THIS UNBALANCED SCALE OF JUSTICE ROSE A CHAMPION OF THE DOWN-TRODDEN, THE GREAT OUTLAW *ROBIN HOOD*. HIS VIVID, HAIR-RAISING ADVENTURES AND THOSE OF HIS MERRY MEN BECAME LEGEND, HANDED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.

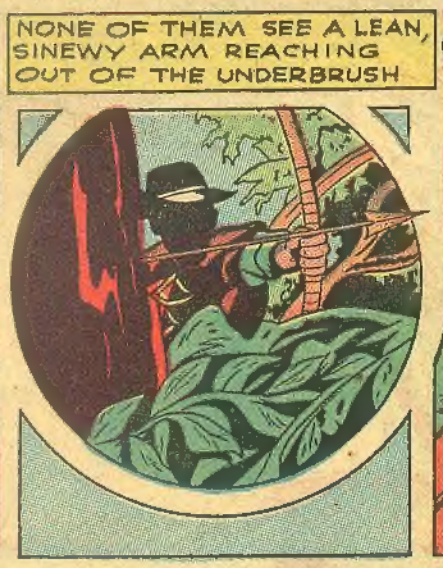
AND SO, TODAY, WE ARE ABLE TO RECOUNT THE EXCITING TALE OF *ROBIN HOOD*— HOW HE CAME TO BE, AND WHAT HE DID .....

THE STORY HAS ITS BEGINNINGS IN SHERWOOD FOREST- WITH A PEASANT AND HIS HUNGRY CHILD-
DON'T CRY, MY SON. SOON WE SHALL HAVE MEAT ON OUR TABLE- ENOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR BROTHER.... LOOK! A DEER!

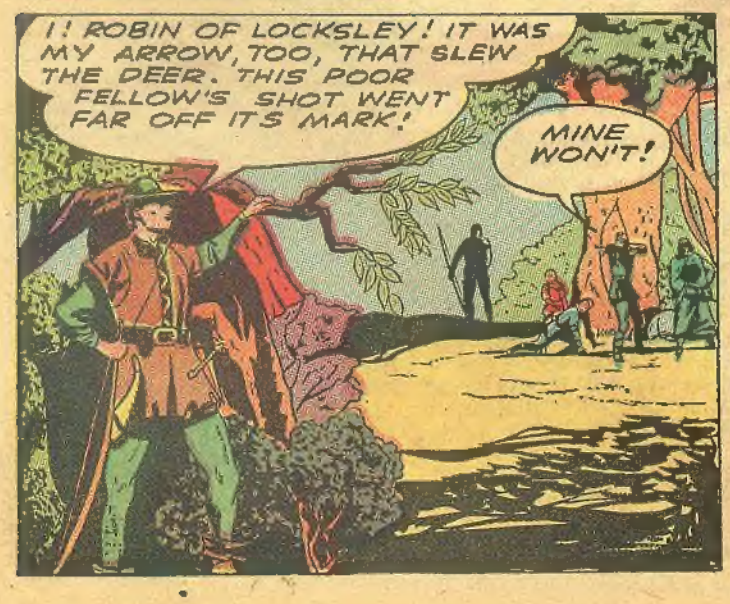
STRAIGHT TO HIS HEART-

BUT-AS THE ARROW ZOOMS TO IT'S MARK.....
ARREST HIM! HE SLEW THE KING'S DEER!
THOUGHT NO ONE WAS LOOKING, EH? YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!

MERCY-PLEASE, SHERIFF! MY CHILDREN ARE STARVING!
GET UP, YOU SAXON DOG! BIND HIS HANDS AND FEET!
I'LL SQUEEZE THEM TIGHT, SHERIFF!
SLAP

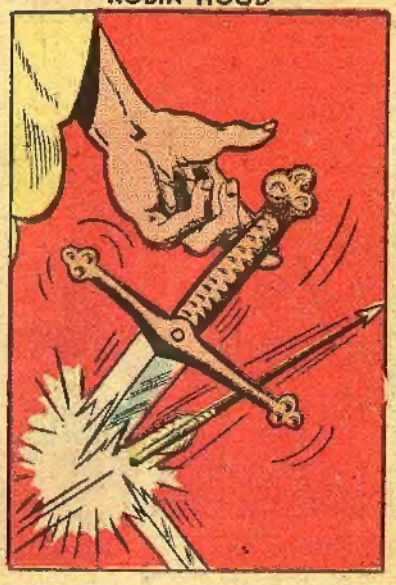

NONE OF THEM SEE A LEAN, SINEWY ARM REACHING OUT OF THE UNDERBRUSH

THE DEVIL!
WHO DID THAT?

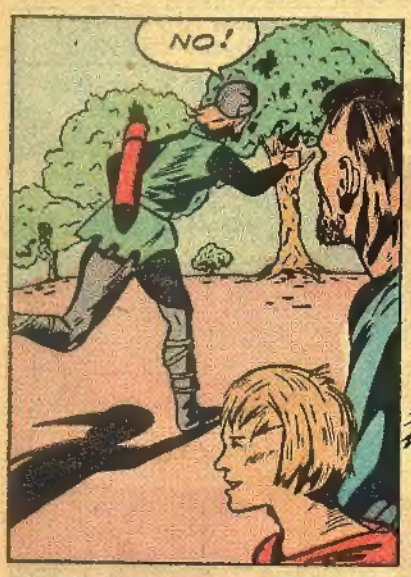

I! ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY! IT WAS MY ARROW, TOO, THAT SLEW THE DEER. THIS POOR FELLOW'S SHOT WENT FAR OFF IT'S MARK!
MINE WON'T!

THE GAMEKEEPER SHOOTS...
MISSED... AND NOW IT IS MY TURN AGAIN

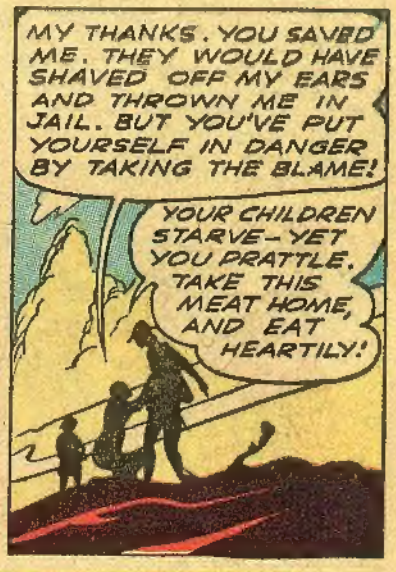
ROBIN'S ARROW PINIONS THE GAMEKEEPER TO A TREE.
LAUGH YOUR LAST!
HA - HA HA!

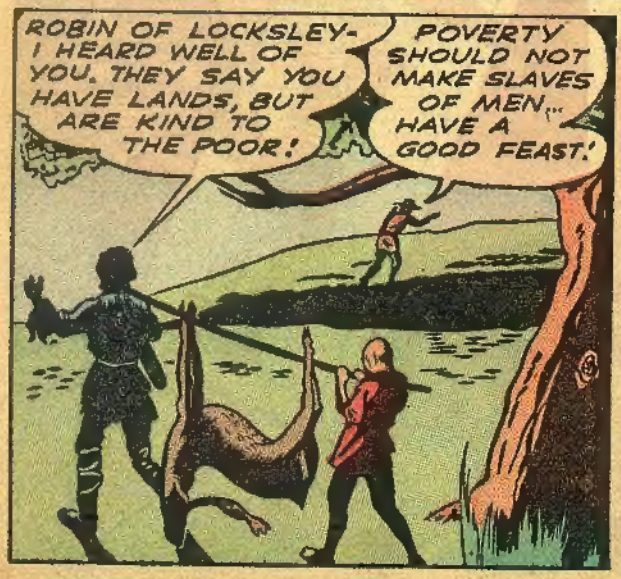


YOU, MAN. DON'T YOU DESIRE THE TASTE OF MY ARROW, TOO?

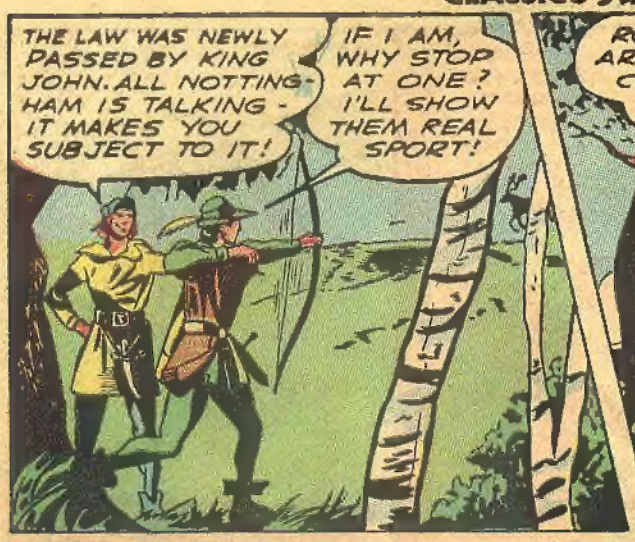

NO!

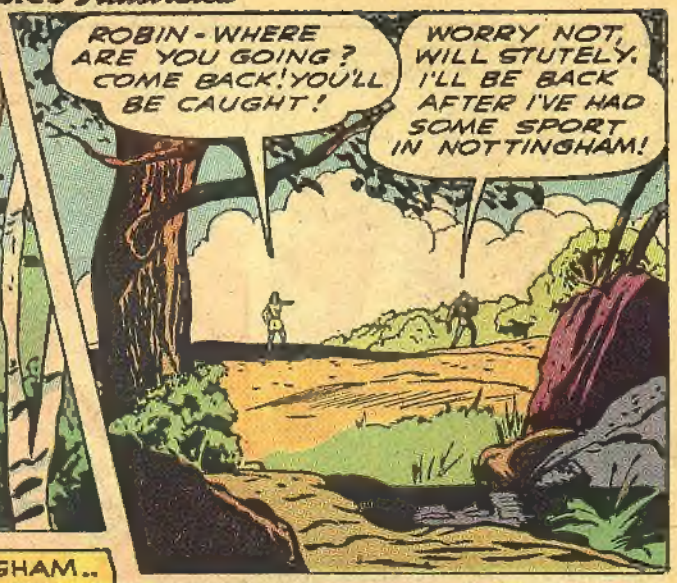
WHILE ROBIN'S ARROWS TWANG MERRILY, THE OTHER TWO FLEE.
YEOW!
ZING


MY THANKS. YOU SAVED ME. THEY WOULD HAVE SHAVED OFF MY EARS AND THROWN ME IN JAIL. BUT YOU'VE PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER BY TAKING THE BLAME!
YOUR CHILDREN STARVE - YET YOU PRATTLE. TAKE THIS MEAT HOME, AND EAT HEARTILY!

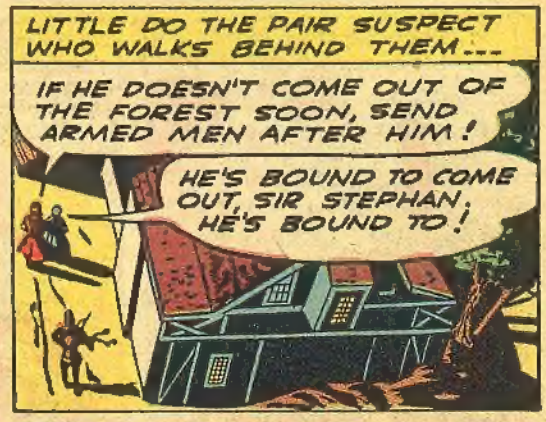

ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY - I HEARD WELL OF YOU. THEY SAY YOU HAVE LANDS, BUT ARE KIND TO THE POOR!
POVERTY SHOULD NOT MAKE SLAVES OF MEN... HAVE A GOOD FEAST!

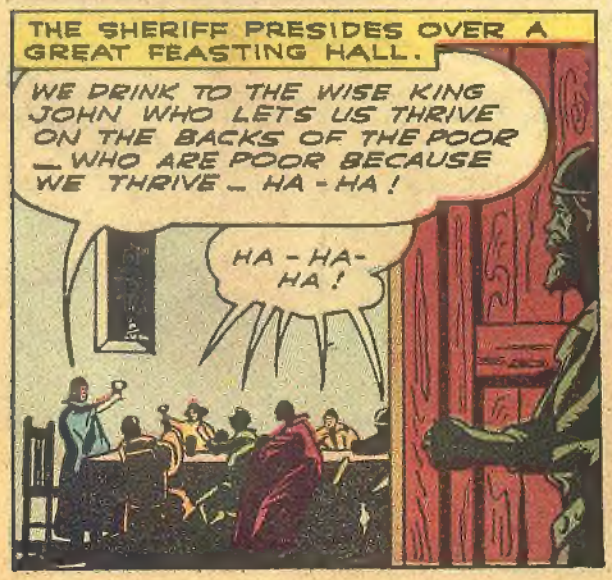
LATER, A BREATHLESS FRIEND FINDS ROBIN.
ROBIN - DON'T GO HOME! I JUST HEARD YOU KILLED THE KING'S DEER WHILE HUNTING, NOW THERE'S A DEATH PENALTY FOR SUCH A CRIME.
WHAT MEAN YOU, WILL?


THE LAW WAS NEWLY PASSED BY KING JOHN. ALL NOTTINGHAM IS TALKING - IT MAKES YOU SUBJECT TO IT!
IF I AM, WHY STOP AT ONE? I'LL SHOW THEM REAL SPORT!


ROBIN - WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME BACK! YOU'LL BE CAUGHT!
WORRY NOT, WILL STUTELY. I'LL BE BACK AFTER I'VE HAD SOME SPORT IN NOTTINGHAM!

IN THE NEARBY TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM..
Death Penalty FOR ANYONE WHO SLAYS THE KING'S GAME
HA! GOOD KING JOHN THINKS OF EVERYTHING. WE'LL HANG THAT SCOUNDREL ROBIN FROM THE HIGHEST TREE... COME, IT'S TIME TO DINE!
AND WINE, TOO, EH, SHERIFF?


LITTLE DO THE PAIR SUSPECT WHO WALKS BEHIND THEM...
IF HE DOESN'T COME OUT OF THE FOREST SOON, SEND ARMED MEN AFTER HIM!
HE'S BOUND TO COME OUT, SIR STEPHAN, HE'S BOUND TO!


THE SHERIFF PRESIDES OVER A GREAT FEASTING HALL.
WE DRINK TO THE WISE KING JOHN WHO LETS US THRIVE ON THE BACKS OF THE POOR — WHO ARE POOR BECAUSE WE THRIVE — HA-HA!
HA-HA-HA!

TRAITORS!

THE DEER THUDS IN FRONT OF THE NOW SPEECHLESS SHERIFF.
THIS WANTONNESS WILL ALL BE OVER-TURNED. I PLEDGE MYSELF TO FIGHT IT.....IN THE NAME OF KING RICHARD OF ENGLAND!
ARREST HIM! KILL HIM!
AS SOLDIERS BLOCK ROBIN'S DASH TO SAFETY.....
OUT OF MY WAY, BUFFOONS!
METHINKS I ALSO HAVE FRIENDS OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
CLANG
A TRAITOR'S BEEN FOUND INSIDE. HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE. THE SHERIFF'S ORDERS ARE TO LATCH THE DOOR FIRMLY
WE DO HIS BID, MEN!
OPEN THE DOOR!
ARE WE FOOLS!

THE DOOR IS HACKED DOWN.
FOOLS! YOU LET HIM GET AWAY! I'LL STRETCH YOUR NECKS!
WHICH WAY DID THE KNAVE GO?
THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW.....I DON'T THINK HE'D GO BACK TO THE FOREST AGAIN.
WHEREVER HE'S GONE, SHERIFF, YOUR HORSE IS GONE WITH HIM!
SPEEDING INTO SHERWOOD FOREST...
♪ I SAW THE SHERIFF- BUT DID THE SHERIFF SEE ME? ♪
YOU'RE SAFE! I WAS READY TO GO TO NOTTINGHAM. WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT DID YOU DO ?
ENOUGH TO MAKE ME SOUGHT AFTER IN REAL FINE STYLE. THE FOREST IS MY FRIEND. I'LL STAY HERE
SO WILL I. I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
WHAT NONSENSE. THE FOREST DOES NOT HAVE TO BE YOUR HOME. YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE!
FREE? IS IT FREEDOM TO LIVE AMONG THE CRUELTY OF OVER-LORDS ? BETTER A LIFE LIKE THIS!
YOU'RE A GOOD YEOMAN— AND I CAN MAKE YOU A BETTER SHOT!
MORE THAN THAT. WHAT YOU SPOKE HAS MEAT. OTHERS, OUTLAWED OR OPPRESSED, MIGHT PREFER A LIFE LIKE OURS... A STRONG BAND OF MEN LIVING HERE CAN DO MUCH!
NEVER AS GOOD AS YOU..... BUT I CAN STAY?
GO SPREAD THE WORD AMONG THE SUFFERING. LET THEM MEET ME HERE... TONIGHT. NINE O'CLOCK!
AY, I'LL GO!

WILL SPIES A MAN BEING BEATEN - AND INVITES HIS FIRST GUEST!
THEY BEAT ME BECAUSE I HAVE NO MONEY FOR TAXES. WHAT SHALL I DO?
COME TO SHERWOOD FOREST TONIGHT AT NINE -

THE KING'S MEN STEAL MY MEAT. I CAN'T GO ON!
IF YOU'LL COME TO SHERWOOD FOREST TONIGHT....

SHERWOOD FOREST, TONIGHT - NINE!

AS THEY PASS THROUGH THE STREETS OF NOTTINGHAM.....
FROM THIS DAY FORTH, I PRONOUNCE ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY AN OUTLAW - AND HIS LAND AND LIFE FORFEIT TO THE STATE!

I OFFER A REWARD OF 200 POUNDS FOR HIS CAPTURE - DEAD OR ALIVE!
AY, - POOR ROBIN!

MEANWHILE, ROBIN IN THE FOREST COMES ON A STRANGE SIGHT.
A ROYAL GAMEKEEPER TIED UP - THAT PLEASES ME. WHO DID IT?
A RUFFIAN, EIGHT FEET TALL! — I BEG YOU, UNTIE ME -

I DO THIS SO YOU CAN RUN AND SEND GREETINGS TO THE SHERIFF FROM ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY. TELL HIM THE FOREST IS FULL OF MEN EIGHT FEET TALL!
IT'S TRUE - I SAW HIM!

YOUR IMAGINATION PLAYS TRICKS, GO ON WITH YOU!
THE SHERIFF WILL HAVE YOUR HEAD!

BUT - AS ROBIN NEARS A NARROW BRIDGE.....
HO - THERE IS A TALL STRANGER. I SHOULD SAY SEVEN FEET HIGH - NOT EIGHT.

HE'S QUICKENING HIS PACE....
DO YOU THINK TO CROSS FIRST, LITTLE MAN?
THAT I DO!

I SAY - OUT OF MY WAY, STIPLING, OR I'LL PUT AN ARROW BETWEEN YOUR RIBS!
TOUCH ONE ARROW OF THAT BOW - AND I'LL LEATHER YOUR HIDE - THOUGH I ONLY HAVE A WOODEN STAFF FOR A WEAPON!

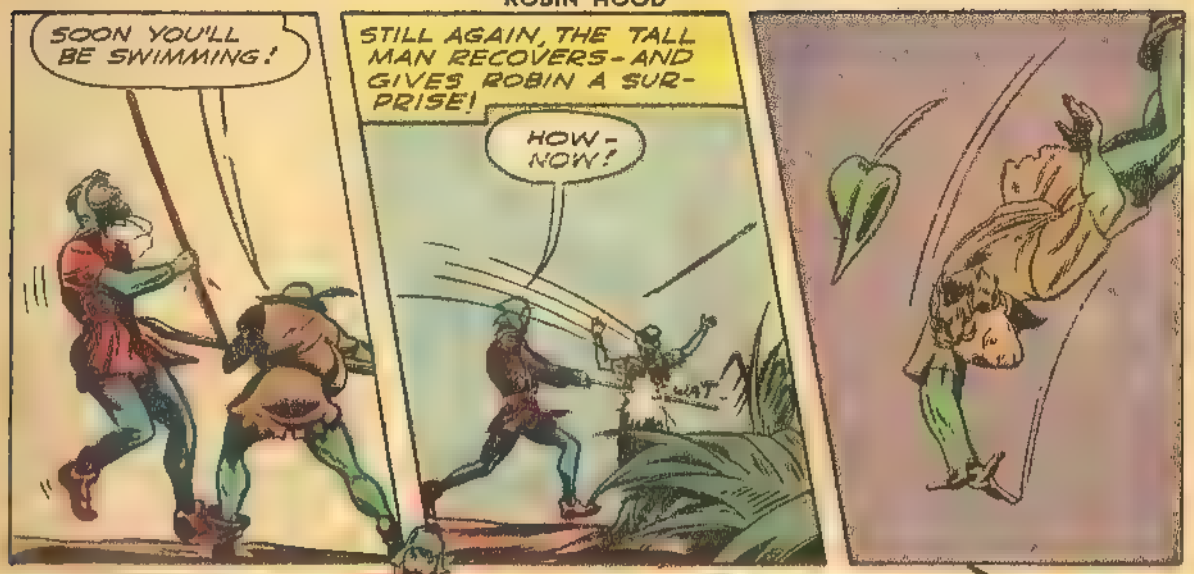
THEN I'LL CUT ME A STAFF - LET THAT BE MY WEAPON, TOO.
AH! I'M WAITING TO SLAUGHTER YOU!

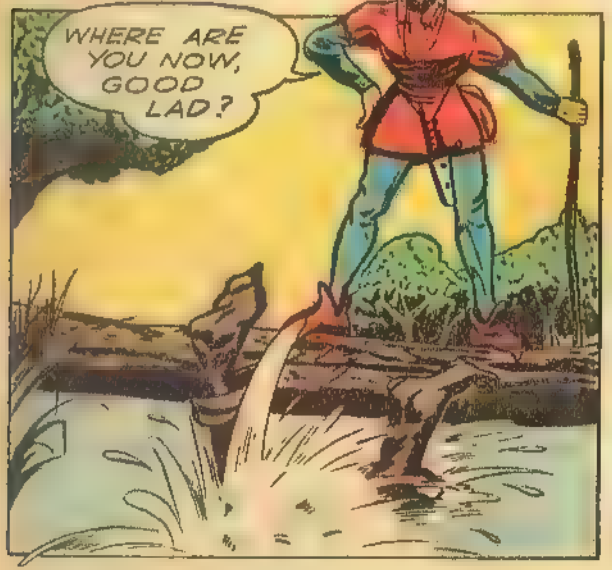
THOUGH OVER-MATCHED IN SIZE, ROBIN, UNDAUNTED, MEETS THE TOWERING STRANGER.
WHAT SAY YE NOW, SHORT ONE?

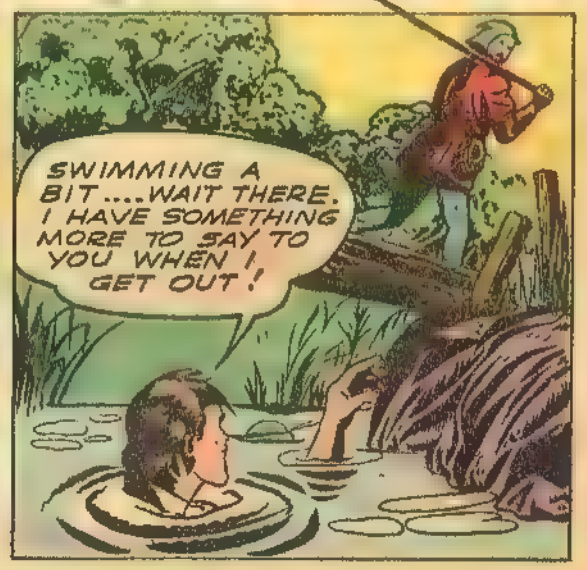
THE STRANGER REGAINS HIS BALANCE.
MISSED

I CAN PARRY THEM, TOO!

THEY FIGHT ON, NEITHER BUDGING AN INCH — UNTIL.....
LET THIS TICKLE YOUR RIBS!


SOON YOU'LL BE SWIMMING!
STILL AGAIN, THE TALL MAN RECOVERS - AND GIVES ROBIN A SURPRISE!
HOW - NOW!


WHERE ARE YOU NOW, GOOD LAD?

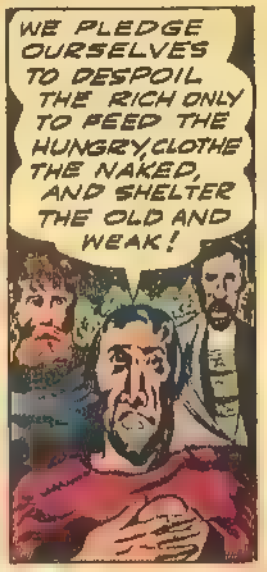

SWIMMING A BIT....WAIT THERE. I HAVE SOMETHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU WHEN I GET OUT!

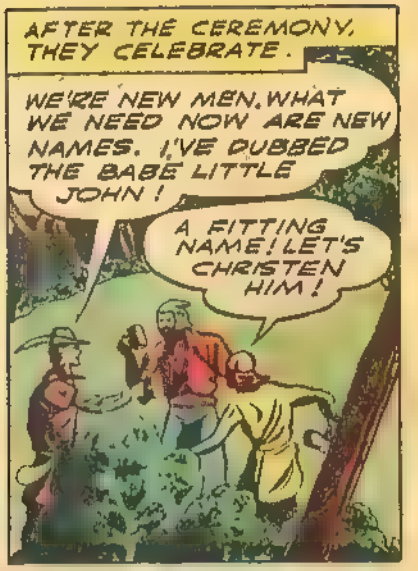
IT'S THIS. YOU'RE A BRAVE FELLOW AND CAN FIGHT. I'M ORGANIZING A BAND OF MEN WHO OPPOSE THE TRAITOR JOHN. WILL YOU JOIN US?

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY. THERE'S NO BETTER YEOMAN IN ALL ENGLAND — AND NO SQUARER MAN. AY, I'LL JOIN YOU GLADLY!
GOOD! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

WHENCE I COME FROM. MEN CALL ME JOHN LITTLE!
NAY. AN INFANT LIKE YOU SHOULD BE CALLED LITTLE JOHN.....IT'S TIME WE GET TO THE MEETING, LITTLE JOHN!

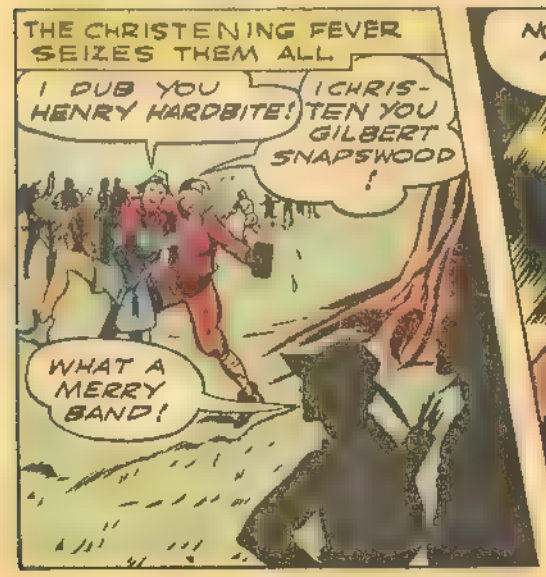
DEEP IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
WE ARE ALL FREE-BORN MEN LOYAL TO RICHARD. TOGETHER, WE'LL STRIKE AT THOSE WHO BREAK THE BACKS OF THE POOR.

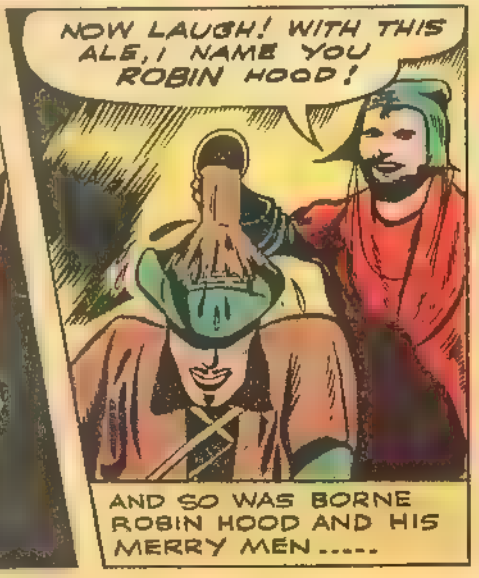

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO DESPOIL THE RICH ONLY TO FEED THE HUNGRY, CLOTHE THE NAKED, AND SHELTER THE OLD AND WEAK!

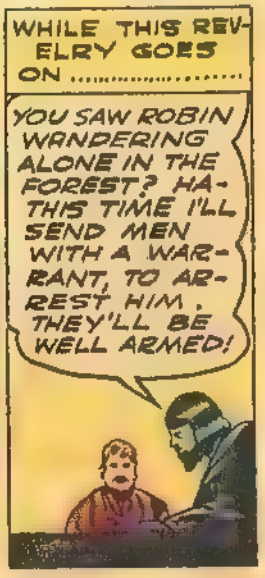

AFTER THE CEREMONY, THEY CELEBRATE.
WE'RE NEW MEN. WHAT WE NEED NOW ARE NEW NAMES. I'VE DUBBED THE BABE LITTLE JOHN!
A FITTING NAME! LET'S CHRISTEN HIM!

I CHRISTEN YOU LITTLE JOHN!
BY SAINT DUNSTAN, I'LL HAVE YOUR HIDE!
STAY, LITTLE JOHN, YOU GET NO WORSE TREATMENT THAN ANY-ONE ELSE!

WILL STUTELY, I HEREBY DUB YOU WILL SCARLET!

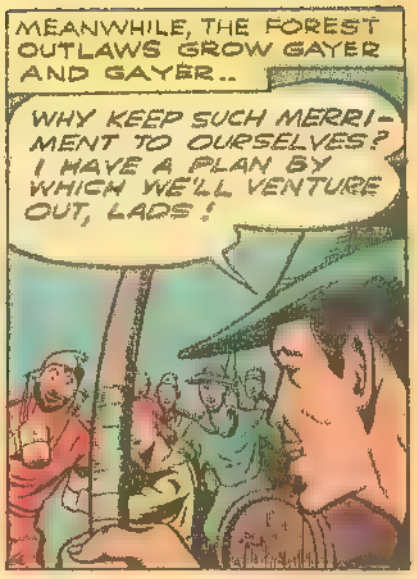

THE CHRISTENING FEVER SEIZES THEM ALL.
I DUB YOU HENRY HARDBITE!
I CHRISTEN YOU GILBERT SNAPSWOOD!
WHAT A MERRY BAND!

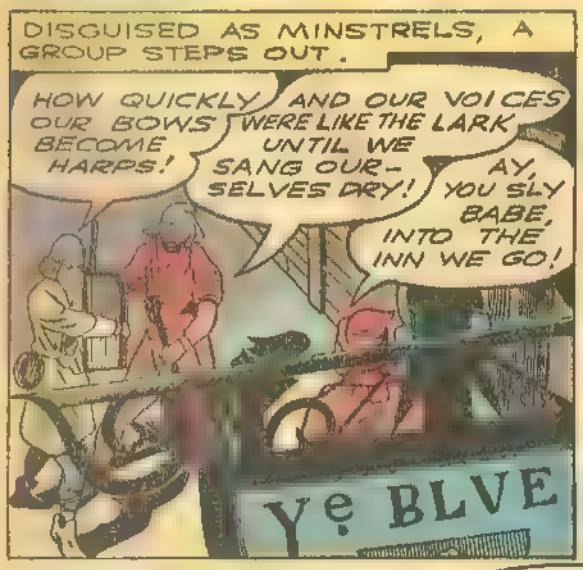

NOW LAUGH! WITH THIS ALE, I NAME YOU ROBIN HOOD!
AND SO WAS BORNE ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN.....

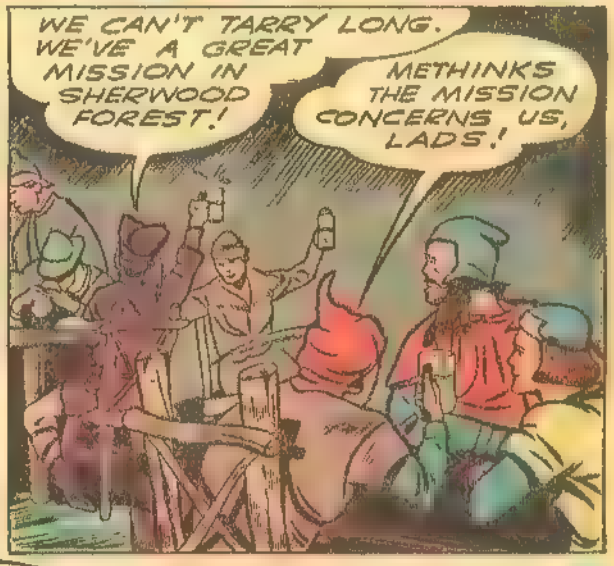

WHILE THIS REVELRY GOES ON.....
YOU SAW ROBIN WANDERING ALONE IN THE FOREST? HA- THIS TIME I'LL SEND MEN WITH A WARRANT, TO ARREST HIM. THEY'LL BE WELL ARMED!

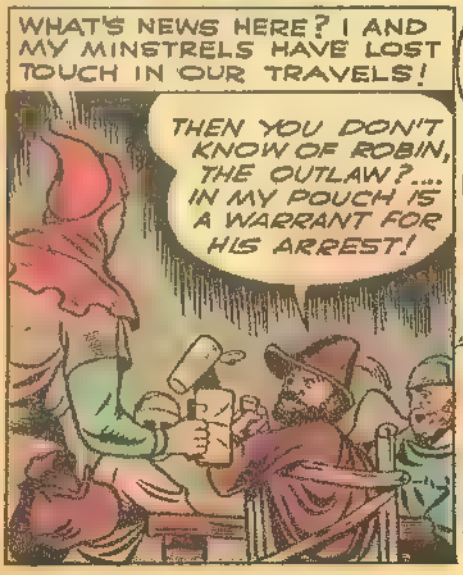
YOU, TINKER, SERVE THE WARRANT. AS HE READS IT, YOU OTHERS SURROUND HIM. GO NOW. BRING BACK THE ROGUE!
AY!

ON THE ROAD TO SHERWOOD FOREST...
THE WAY IS LONG AND DUSTY, AND I'VE ACQUIRED A THIRST-- AND THERE'S AN INN!
WE'LL TARRY FOR A MINUTE OR TWO


MEANWHILE, THE FOREST OUTLAWS GROW GAYER AND GAYER..
WHY KEEP SUCH MERRIMENT TO OURSELVES? I HAVE A PLAN BY WHICH WE'LL VENTURE OUT, LADS!


DISGUISED AS MINSTRELS, A GROUP STEPS OUT.
HOW QUICKLY OUR BOWS BECOME HARPS!
AND OUR VOICES WERE LIKE THE LARK UNTIL WE SANG OURSELVES DRY!
AY, YOU SLY BABE, INTO THE INN WE GO!
Ye BLVE

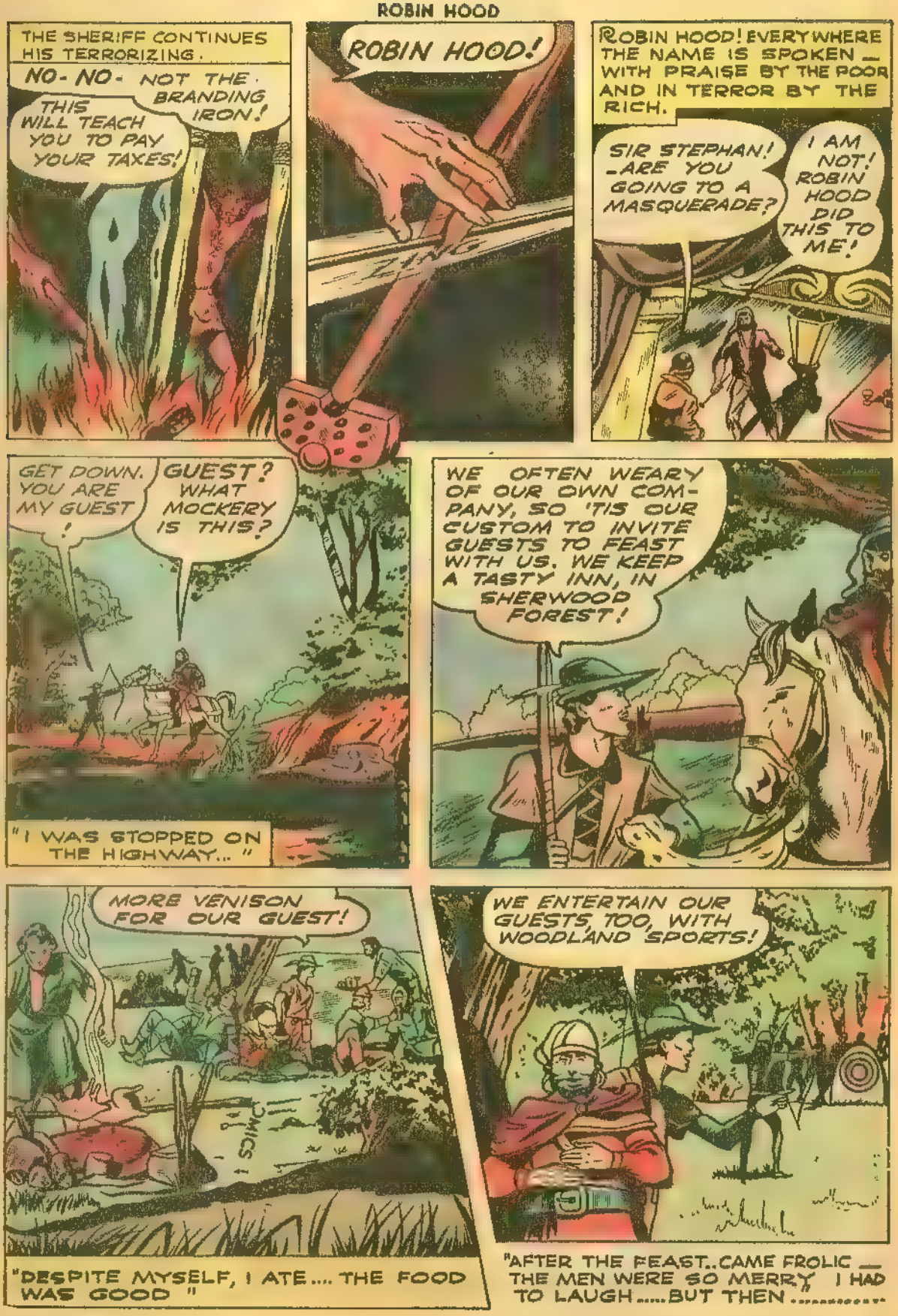

WE CAN'T TARRY LONG. WE'VE A GREAT MISSION IN SHERWOOD FOREST!
METHINKS THE MISSION CONCERNS US, LADS!

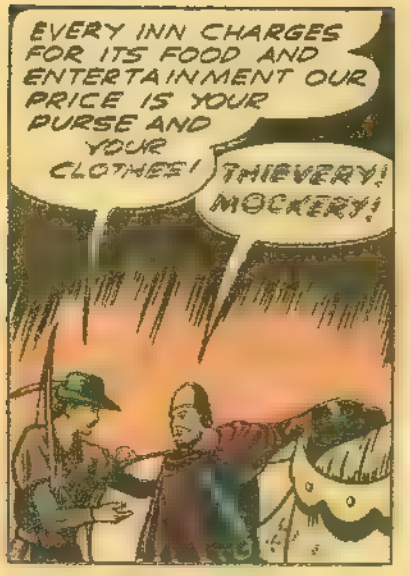

WHAT'S NEWS HERE? I AND MY MINSTRELS HAVE LOST TOUCH IN OUR TRAVELS!
THEN YOU DON'T KNOW OF ROBIN, THE OUTLAW?.... IN MY POUCH IS A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST!

A WORTHY PLAN..... LANDLORD! BRING THESE FELLOWS MORE ALE .....THEY CAN SPARE ONE MORE MOMENT!

BUT ROBIN HOOD PLIES THEM WITH MORE AND MORE ALE — AND PUTS THEM TO SLEEP!
I'LL LEAVE THIS SLEEPING BEAUTY A SWEETER NOTE!

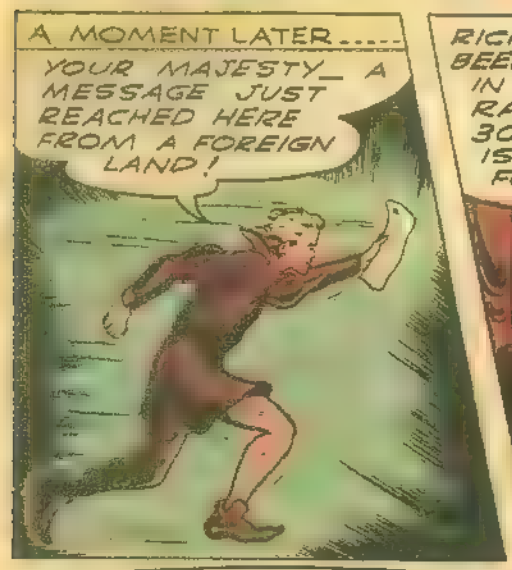
WHEN THEY AWAKEN .....
THIS ISN'T THE WARRANT...." MY MINSTRELS AND I ARE WAITING WITH ARROWS INSTEAD OF HARPS"... ROBIN HOOD, THE OUTLAW!
THAT WAS HE WITH MANY MEN. WE MUST TELL THE SHERIFF - BUT NOT THAT WE DRANK!
HE'S IN THE FOREST WITH A BAND OF MEN?
AY. THEY OVERCAME US, AND STOLE THE WARRANT. WE BARELY ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES!
I MUST PLAN ANOTHER WAY TO TAKE HIM, THEN. BUT FIRST, WE SHALL SEE WHAT HE IS UP TO. HE MIGHT SHOW HIS HAND!
SOONER THAN THE SHERIFF MAGINES, ROBIN HOOD AND HIS BAND STRIKE THEIR FIRST BLOW . AT A HANGING THE NEXT DAY.....
HANG HIM WELL. HE HELD FROM US A BUSHEL OF GRAIN!
SUDDENLY, A SHAFT IS HURLED.
TWANG
A VOLLEY OF ARROWS SWIFTLY FOLLOWS.
WE'RE SHOWERED!
HELP!!
DUCK!
WHEN THE ARROW-STORM CEASES...
OUR MAN - HE'S ESCAPED THE GALLOWS!
LISTEN TO THIS NOTE."GREETINGS FROM ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN!"


THE SHERIFF CONTINUES HIS TERRORIZING.
NO-NO- NOT THE BRANDING IRON!
THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO PAY YOUR TAXES!
ROBIN HOOD!
ROBIN HOOD! EVERYWHERE THE NAME IS SPOKEN — WITH PRAISE BY THE POOR AND IN TERROR BY THE RICH.
SIR STEPHAN! -ARE YOU GOING TO A MASQUERADE?
I AM NOT! ROBIN HOOD DID THIS TO ME!
GET DOWN. YOU ARE MY GUEST!
GUEST? WHAT MOCKERY IS THIS?
"I WAS STOPPED ON THE HIGHWAY..."
WE OFTEN WEARY OF OUR OWN COMPANY, SO 'TIS OUR CUSTOM TO INVITE GUESTS TO FEAST WITH US. WE KEEP A TASTY INN, IN SHERWOOD FOREST!
MORE VENISON FOR OUR GUEST!
"DESPITE MYSELF, I ATE.... THE FOOD WAS GOOD"
WE ENTERTAIN OUR GUESTS, TOO, WITH WOODLAND SPORTS!
"AFTER THE FEAST..CAME FROLIC — THE MEN WERE SO MERRY I HAD TO LAUGH.....BUT THEN.....

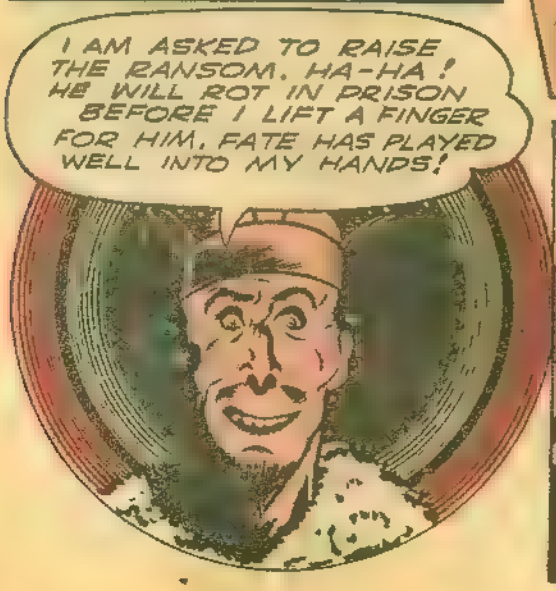

EVERY INN CHARGES FOR ITS FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT OUR PRICE IS YOUR PURSE AND YOUR CLOTHES!
THIEVERY! MOCKERY!

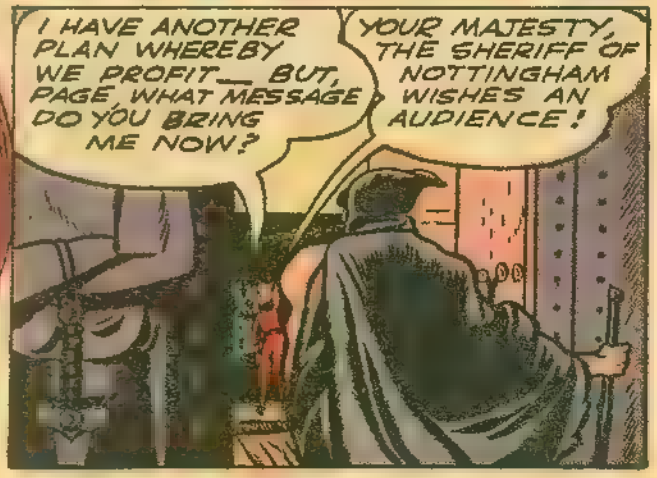
I REPEAT IT, SHERIFF IT'S THIEVERY! MOCKERY! ROBIN HOOD AND HIS BAND MUST BE STOPPED WITHOUT DELAY!
I'LL GO TO KING JOHN, FOR AID AGAINST THEM!

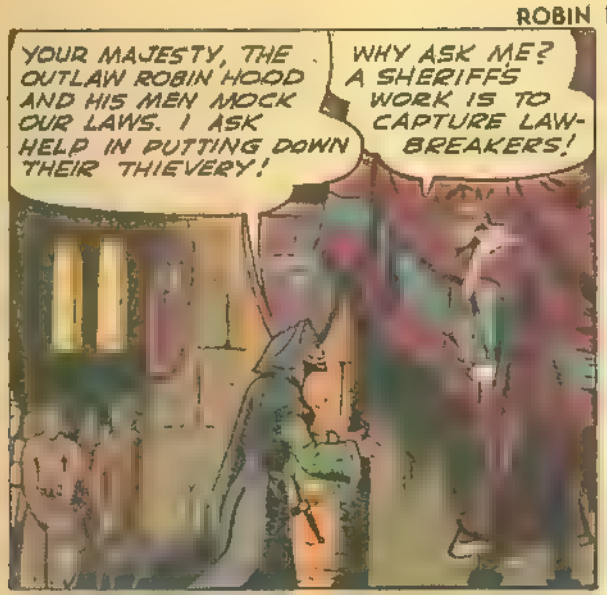
THE SHERIFF RIDES TO LONDON TOWN TO VISIT A MAN WHOSE MIND IS EVER RESTLESS WITH BLACK SCHEMES. JOHN.....
RICHARD MUST NEVER GET BACK ON THE THRONE. WE MUST PREVENT HIS RETURN TO ENGLAND FROM THE CRUSADES!


A MOMENT LATER.....
YOUR MAJESTY_ A MESSAGE JUST REACHED HERE FROM A FOREIGN LAND!

RICHARD HAS BEEN CAPTURED IN AUSTRIA! A RANSOM OF 300,000 MARKS IS DEMANDED FOR HIS RELEASE!

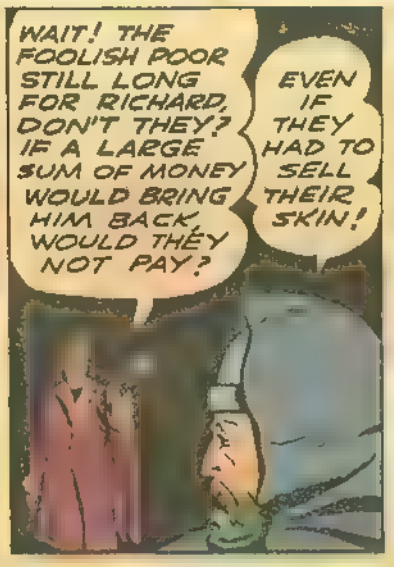

I AM ASKED TO RAISE THE RANSOM. HA-HA! HE WILL ROT IN PRISON BEFORE I LIFT A FINGER FOR HIM. FATE HAS PLAYED WELL INTO MY HANDS!

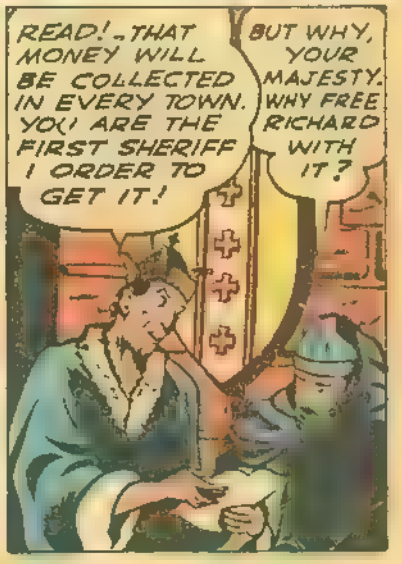

I HAVE ANOTHER PLAN WHEREBY WE PROFIT_ BUT, PAGE, WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU BRING ME NOW?
YOUR MAJESTY, THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM WISHES AN AUDIENCE!


YOUR MAJESTY, THE OUTLAW ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN MOCK OUR LAWS. I ASK HELP IN PUTTING DOWN THEIR THIEVERY!
WHY ASK ME? A SHERIFF'S WORK IS TO CAPTURE LAW-BREAKERS!

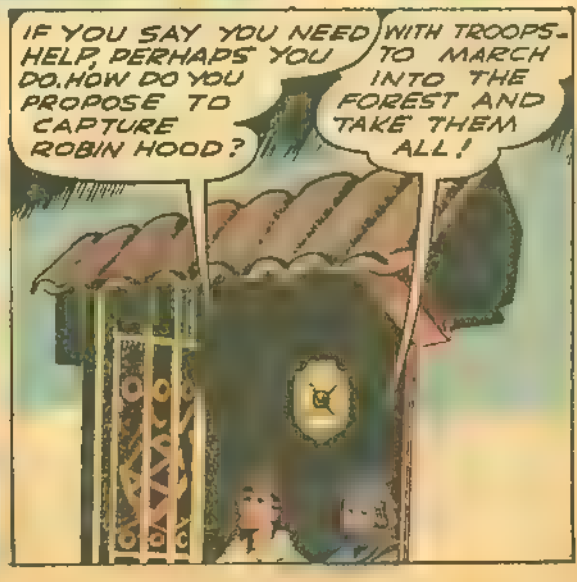
YOU HAVE MEN-AT-ARMS. CAN'T THEY TAKE A BAND OF KNAVES ARMED WITH ONLY BOWS AND ARROWS?
NAY - THIS BAND IS LIKE NOTHING THAT EVER EXISTED

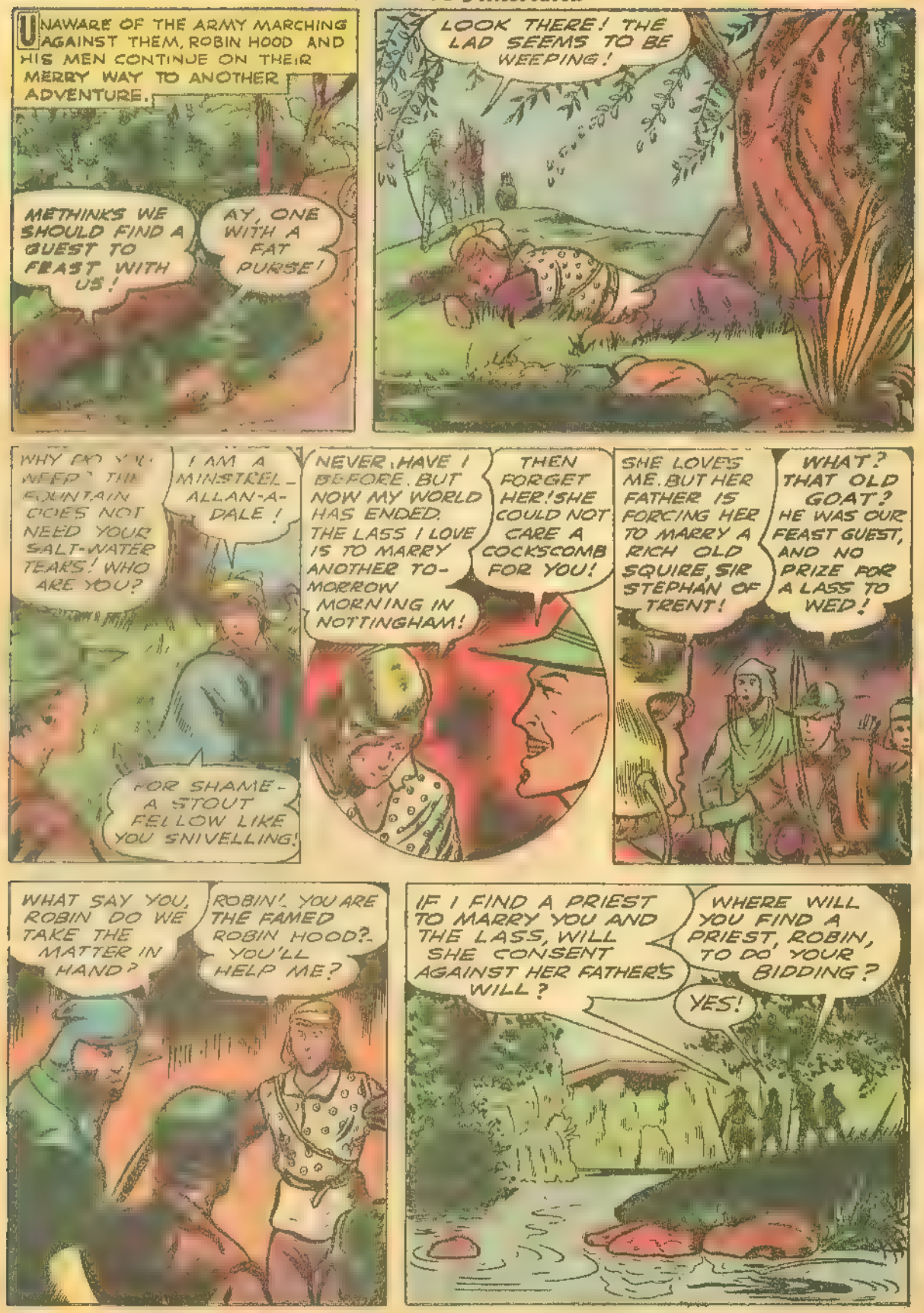
THAT CAN'T BE. I CHARGE YOU TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD. IF NOT, THERE WILL BE ANOTHER SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM!
I BEG YOU. ... I - I I'LL DO MY BEST TO TAKE HIM!

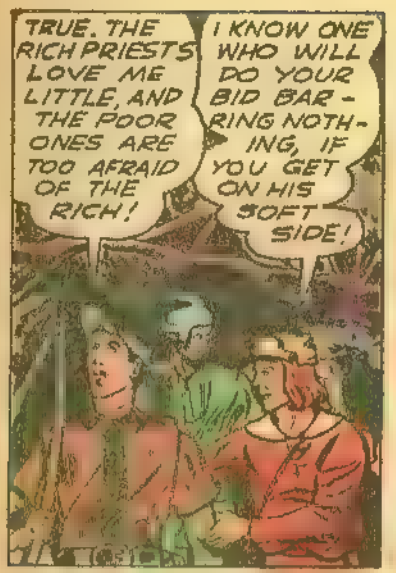

WAIT! THE FOOLISH POOR STILL LONG FOR RICHARD, DON'T THEY? IF A LARGE SUM OF MONEY WOULD BRING HIM BACK WOULD THEY NOT PAY?
EVEN IF THEY HAD TO SELL THEIR SKIN!


READ! - THAT MONEY WILL BE COLLECTED IN EVERY TOWN. YOU ARE THE FIRST SHERIFF I ORDER TO GET IT!
BUT WHY, YOUR MAJESTY. WHY FREE RICHARD WITH IT?

EXACTLY... YOU HAVE A WISE BUSINESS MIND. WE WILL FATTEN ON THE RANSOM!
HOW CAN WE? - ROBIN HOOD SWEARS BY RICHARD. HE WILL SEE THAT THE MONEY GOES TO HIM!

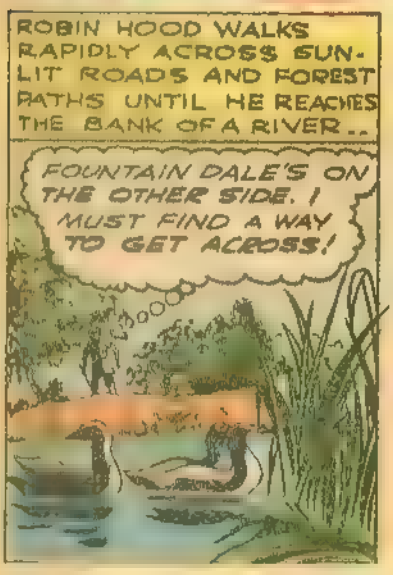

IF YOU SAY YOU NEED HELP, PERHAPS YOU DO. HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD?
WITH TROOPS - TO MARCH INTO THE FOREST AND TAKE THEM ALL!

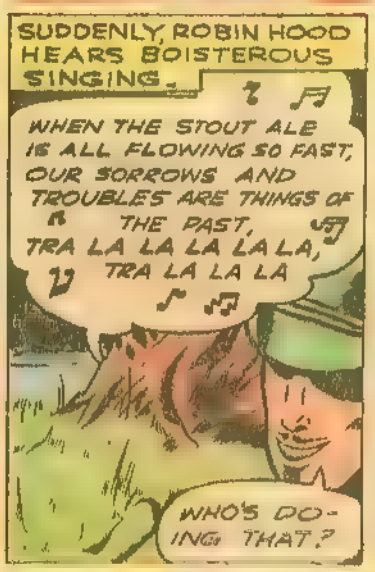

UNAWARE OF THE ARMY MARCHING AGAINST THEM, ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN CONTINUE ON THEIR MERRY WAY TO ANOTHER ADVENTURE.
METHINKS WE SHOULD FIND A GUEST TO FEAST WITH US!
AY, ONE WITH A FAT PURSE!
LOOK THERE! THE LAD SEEMS TO BE WEEPING!
WHY DO YOU WEEP? THE FOUNTAIN DOES NOT NEED YOUR SALT-WATER TEARS! WHO ARE YOU?
I AM A MINSTREL - ALLAN-A-DALE!
FOR SHAME - A STOUT FELLOW LIKE YOU SNIVELLING!
NEVER HAVE I BEFORE. BUT NOW MY WORLD HAS ENDED. THE LASS I LOVE IS TO MARRY ANOTHER TOMORROW MORNING IN NOTTINGHAM!
THEN FORGET HER! SHE COULD NOT CARE A COCKSCOMB FOR YOU!
SHE LOVES ME. BUT HER FATHER IS FORCING HER TO MARRY A RICH OLD SQUIRE, SIR STEPHAN OF TRENT!
WHAT? THAT OLD GOAT? HE WAS OUR FEAST GUEST, AND NO PRIZE FOR A LASS TO WED!
WHAT SAY YOU, ROBIN DO WE TAKE THE MATTER IN HAND?
ROBIN! YOU ARE THE FAMED ROBIN HOOD? YOU'LL HELP ME?
IF I FIND A PRIEST TO MARRY YOU AND THE LASS, WILL SHE CONSENT AGAINST HER FATHER'S WILL?
WHERE WILL YOU FIND A PRIEST, ROBIN, TO DO YOUR BIDDING?
YES!

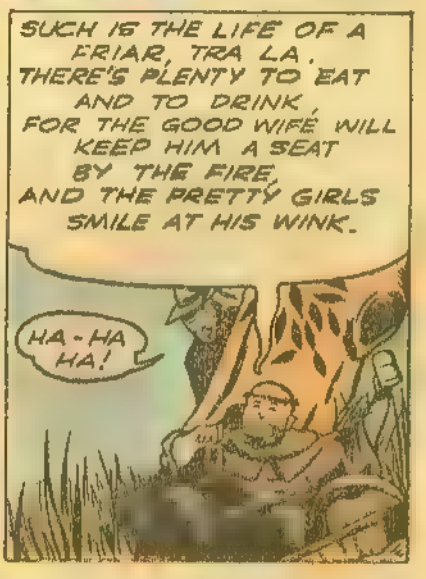

TRUE. THE RICH PRIESTS LOVE ME LITTLE, AND THE POOR ONES ARE TOO AFRAID OF THE RICH!
I KNOW ONE WHO WILL DO YOUR BID BARRING NOTHING, IF YOU GET ON HIS SOFT SIDE!

HE IS FRIAR TUCK, OF FOUNTAIN DALE!
I'LL FETCH HIM. FOUNTAIN DALE IS NOT FAR FROM HERE!

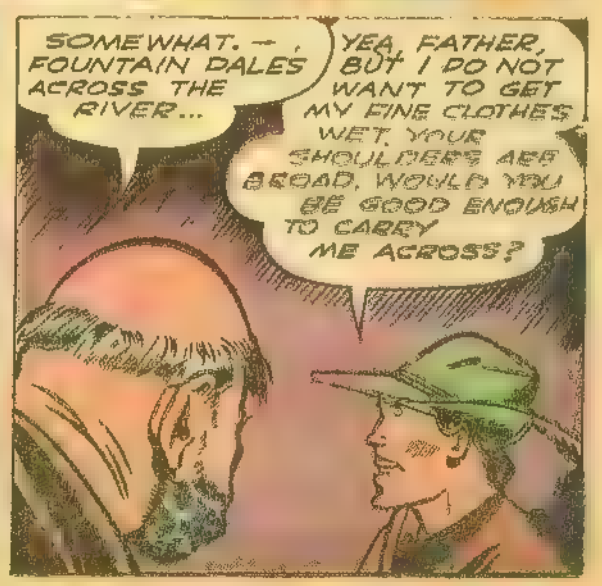
WE WILL GO WITH YOU!
ONE'S ENOUGH. IT'S A SIMPLE MISSION!
AH, LUCKY DAY- MY MEETING WITH ROBIN HOOD!


ROBIN HOOD WALKS RAPIDLY ACROSS SUNLIT ROADS AND FOREST PATHS UNTIL HE REACHES THE BANK OF A RIVER..
FOUNTAIN DALE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE. I MUST FIND A WAY TO GET ACROSS!

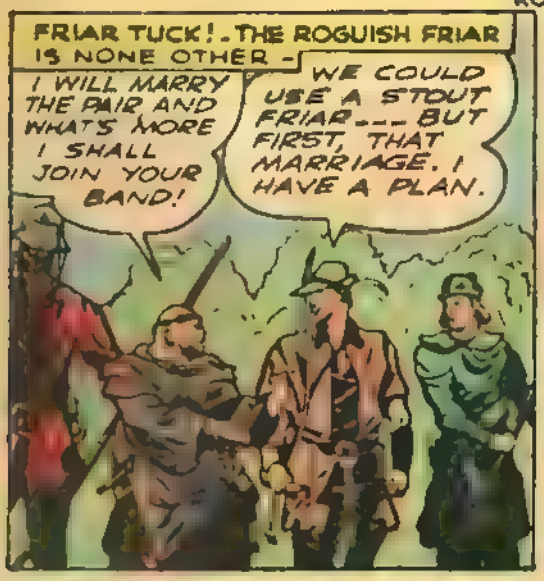

SUDDENLY, ROBIN HOOD HEARS BOISTEROUS SINGING.
WHEN THE STOUT ALE IS ALL FLOWING SO FAST, OUR SORROWS AND TROUBLES ARE THINGS OF THE PAST, TRA LA LA LA LA LA, TRA LA LA LA
WHO'S DOING THAT?


SUCH IS THE LIFE OF A FRIAR, TRA LA. THERE'S PLENTY TO EAT AND TO DRINK, FOR THE GOOD WIFE WILL KEEP HIM A SEAT BY THE FIRE, AND THE PRETTY GIRLS SMILE AT HIS WINK.
HA-HA HA!

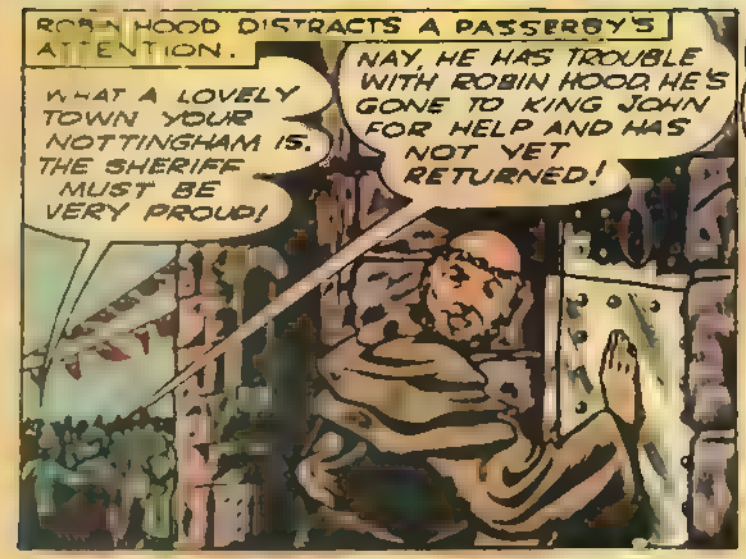
WHO'S THIS SPYING ON ME? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I SEEK ONE FRIAR TUCK, WHO DWELLS AT FOUNTAIN DALE. DO YOU KNOW HIM?


SOMEWHAT. — FOUNTAIN DALES ACROSS THE RIVER...
YEA, FATHER, BUT I DO NOT WANT TO GET MY FINE CLOTHES WET. YOUR SHOULDERS ARE BROAD. WOULD YOU BE GOOD ENOUGH TO CARRY ME ACROSS?

THE FRIAR BLASTS OUT AN ANGRY OATH. THEN HIS EYES TWINKLE, AND HE CALMS DOWN.
IT IS MY DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER. HOP ON MY BACK AND GIVE ME YOUR SWORD SO IT WONT GET WET!
THE RIVER IS CROSSED.
NOW CARRY ME BACK. THE POINT OF YOUR SWORD SAYS YOU SHOULD. AND I WEAR A SWORD TOO!
CUNNING FRIAR! YOU HAVE ME. I'LL CARRY YOU BACK, BUT RETURN MY SWORD!
ROBIN HOOD QUIETLY UNBUCKLES THE FRIAR'S SWORD.
TRAVEL FASTER!
YOU ARE A GREAT WEIGHT. I HAVE THE WORST OF THE BARGAIN!
I HAVE YOUR SWORD AND MINE, TOO. NOW CARRY ME BACK!
IT LOOKS LIKE I MUST — BUT FIRST GIVE ME BACK MY SWORD!
BUT THIS TIME — IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREAM....
VILLAIN!
ROBIN HOOD CHASES THE FRIAR.
TAKE ONE STEP NEARER ME AND, AND I'LL SMITE HARD!
BETTER LOOK TO PROTECT YOUR SEVEN THICK LAYERS OF SKIN. I'M COMING FOR YOU!
ROBIN HOOD! FRIAR TUCK! HOW-NOW! DON'T FIGHT!

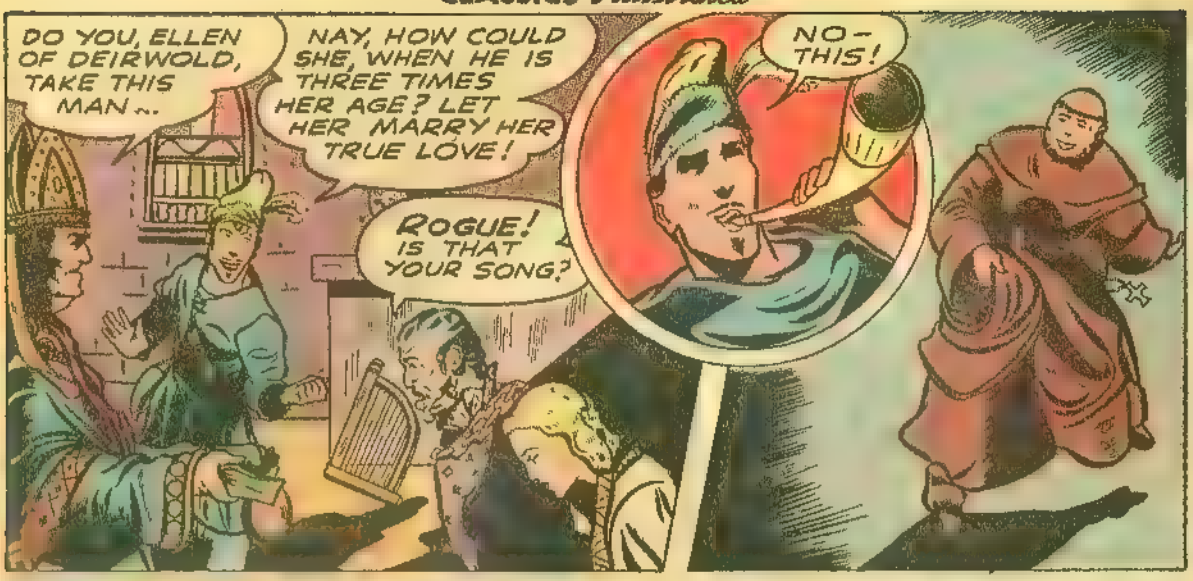

FRIAR TUCK! - THE ROGUISH FRIAR IS NONE OTHER -
I WILL MARRY THE PAIR AND WHAT'S MORE I SHALL JOIN YOUR BAND!
WE COULD USE A STOUT FRIAR --- BUT FIRST, THAT MARRIAGE. I HAVE A PLAN.

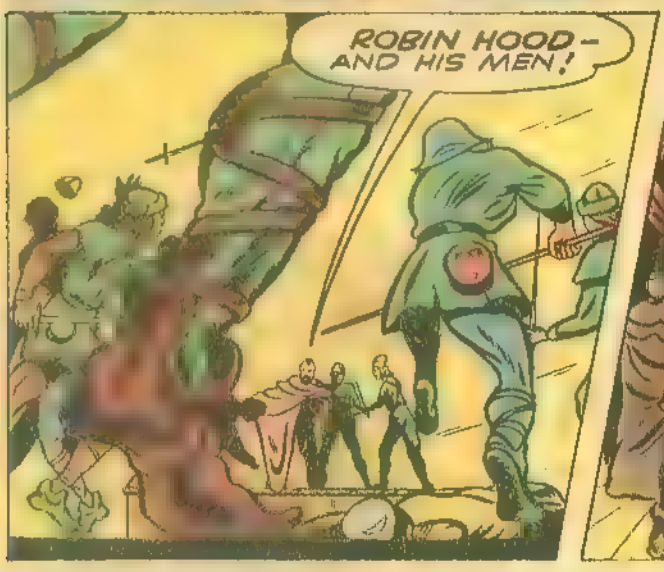
ROBIN HOOD DRESSES AS A MINSTREL — AND.....
GET IN THE CHURCH THROUGH THE SIDE ENTRANCE. IF ANYONE COMES BY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

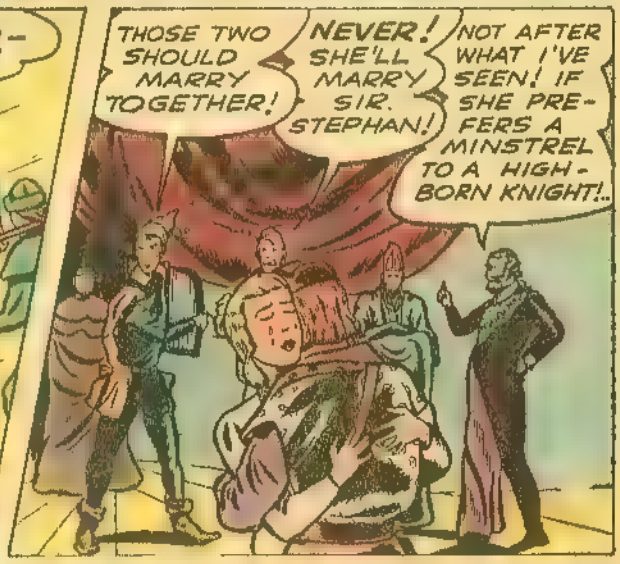

ROBIN HOOD DISTRACTS A PASSERBY'S ATTENTION.
WHAT A LOVELY TOWN YOUR NOTTINGHAM IS. THE SHERIFF MUST BE VERY PROUD!
NAY, HE HAS TROUBLE WITH ROBIN HOOD. HE'S GONE TO KING JOHN FOR HELP AND HAS NOT YET RETURNED!

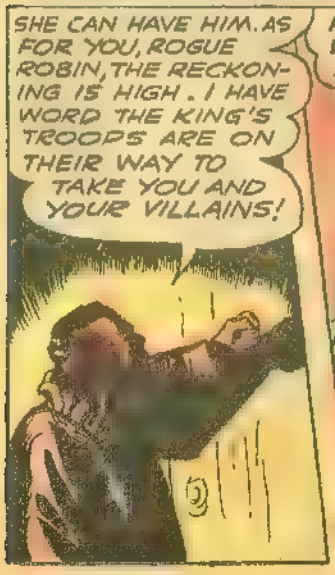
POOR SHERIFF. AH, A BRIDAL PARTY APPROACHES, A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN WITH TWO ELDERLY MEN. FATHER AND GRAND-FATHER?
NAY ONE'S THE BRIDE-GROOM- SIR STEPHAN. THEY SAY SHE LOVES HIM NOT!

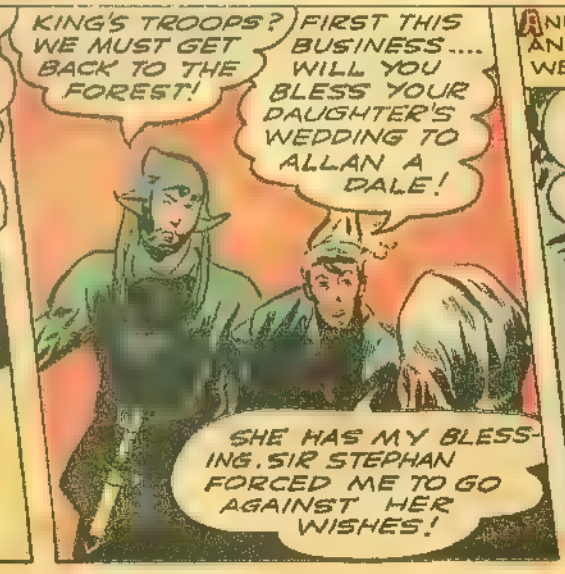
LET ME SING AT YOUR WEDDING. I HAVE A SONG THAT WILL MAKE THE BRIDE LOVE THE MAN SHE MARRIES— FOR ALWAYS!
GOOD FELLOW! RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY, SING TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!


DO YOU, ELLEN OF DEIRWOLD, TAKE THIS MAN...
NAY, HOW COULD SHE, WHEN HE IS THREE TIMES HER AGE? LET HER MARRY HER TRUE LOVE!
ROGUE! IS THAT YOUR SONG?
NO - THIS!


ROBIN HOOD - AND HIS MEN!


THOSE TWO SHOULD MARRY TOGETHER!
NEVER! SHE'LL MARRY SIR. STEPHAN!
NOT AFTER WHAT I'VE SEEN! IF SHE PREFERS A MINSTREL TO A HIGH-BORN KNIGHT!..


SHE CAN HAVE HIM. AS FOR YOU, ROGUE ROBIN, THE RECKONING IS HIGH. I HAVE WORD THE KING'S TROOPS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO TAKE YOU AND YOUR VILLAINS!


KING'S TROOPS? WE MUST GET BACK TO THE FOREST!
FIRST THIS BUSINESS.... WILL YOU BLESS YOUR DAUGHTER'S WEDDING TO ALLAN A DALE!
SHE HAS MY BLESSING. SIR STEPHAN FORCED ME TO GO AGAINST HER WISHES!

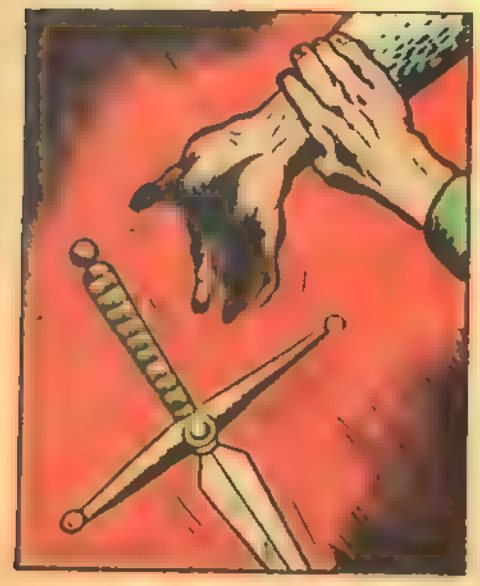
AND SO THE MINSTREL AND HIS LASS WERE WED BY FRIAR TUCK.
NOW, MY LADS! BACK TO SHERWOOD. WE MUST PLAN HOW TO GREET THE KING'S TROOPS!

AT HIGH NOON, THE FOREST BLAZES WITH SHINING ARMOR.
WE ENTER! NOW TO CATCH THE KNAVES IN THEIR DENS!
SO FAR, NOT A SIGN OF THEM!

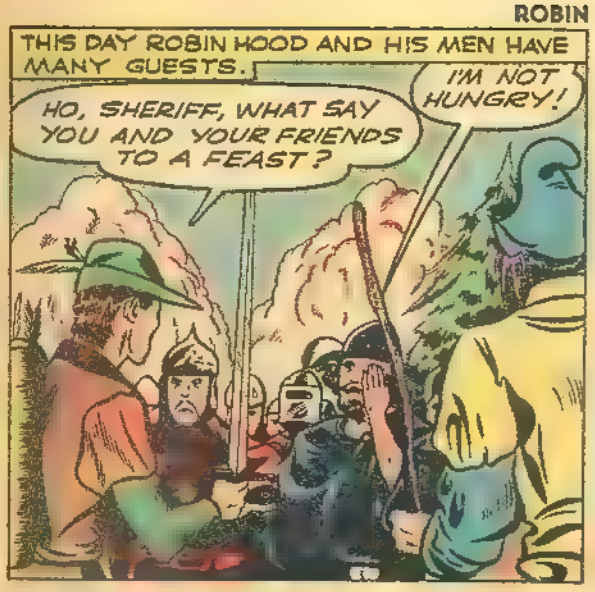
BUT SUDDENLY – OUT OF EVERY TREE ..

WELCOME TO SHERWOOD!
KONK

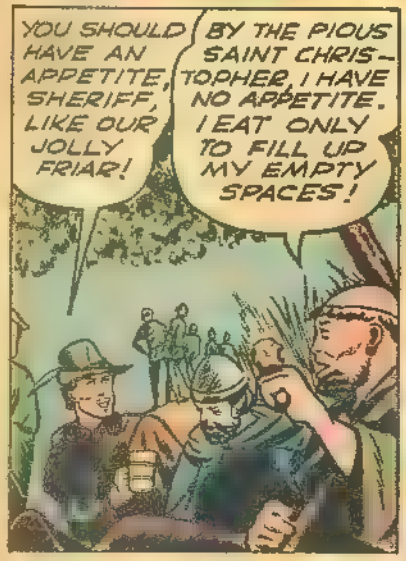
I'LL SLAY YOU, VARMINT!



THE FALLEN KNIGHT SPIES THE SHERIFF'S SWORD.
BUT IN A FLASH...
NEXT TIME, SOLDIER, I'LL USE MY BOW!
ON ALL SIDES DUST AND EARTH FLY.
WHAT A LIGHT-WEIGHT YOU ARE!
LITTLE JOHN, LOOK!
HE LIFTED THAT HORSE BODILY!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES, MEN!!! YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THE DEVIL!

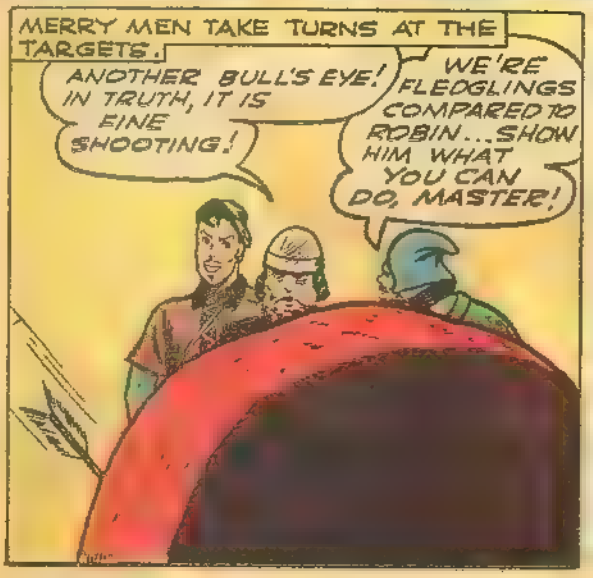

THIS DAY ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN HAVE MANY GUESTS.
HO, SHERIFF, WHAT SAY YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO A FEAST?
I'M NOT HUNGRY!

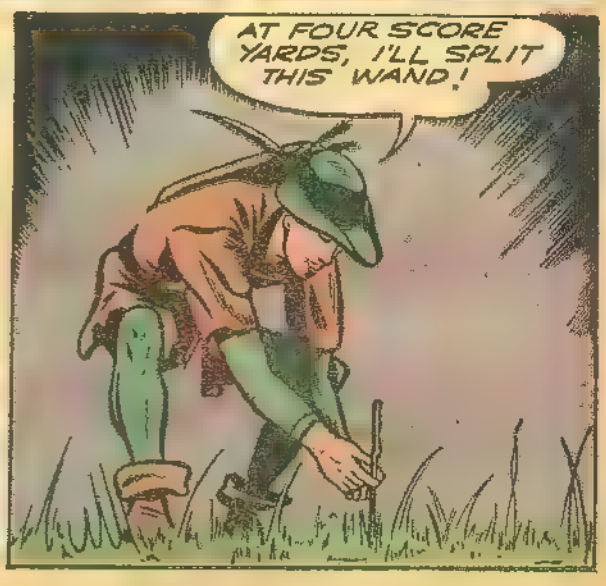
THEN YOU SURELY HAVE A THIRST. YOU MUST PARTAKE OF SOMETHING, FOR YOU'RE TO BE OUR GUEST OF HONOR!


YOU SHOULD HAVE AN APPETITE, SHERIFF, LIKE OUR JOLLY FRIAR!
BY THE PIOUS SAINT CHRISTOPHER, I HAVE NO APPETITE. I EAT ONLY TO FILL UP MY EMPTY SPACES!

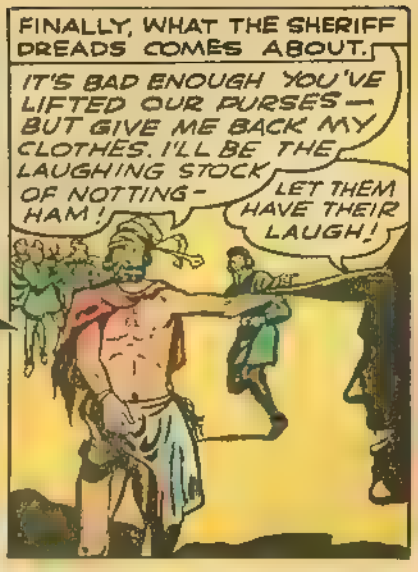
THAT YOUNG FELLOW. HE DIDN'T LOSE HIS HUMOR WHEN WE LEAPED OUT OF THE TREES!

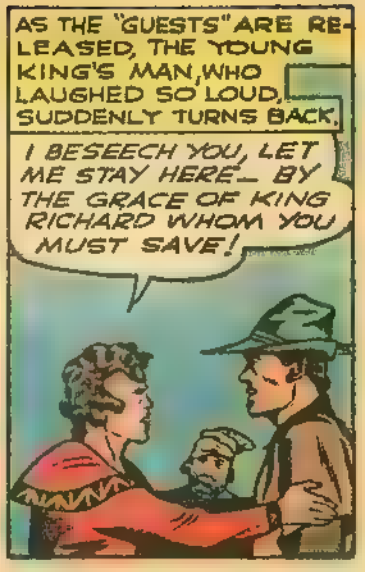
AFTER THE FEAST COME THE SPORTS.
TO SHOW OUR SKILL AS YEOMAN IS PART OF THE POINT, SO THAT YOU WON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ANOTHER ATTACK!


MERRY MEN TAKE TURNS AT THE TARGETS.
ANOTHER BULL'S EYE! IN TRUTH, IT IS FINE SHOOTING!
WE'RE FLEDGLINGS COMPARED TO ROBIN...SHOW HIM WHAT YOU CAN DO, MASTER!

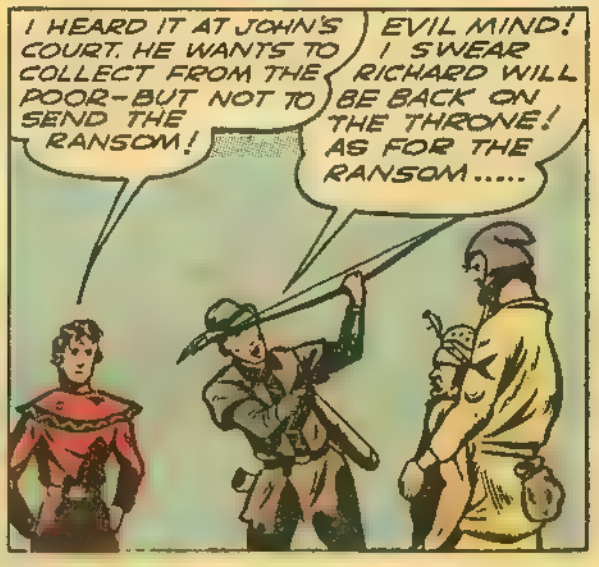

AT FOUR SCORE YARDS, I'LL SPLIT THIS WAND!

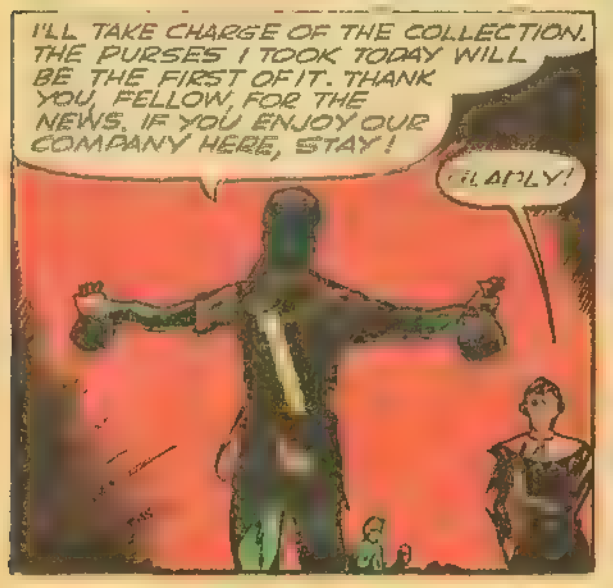
OUR ROBIN'S THE BEST IN THE LAND!

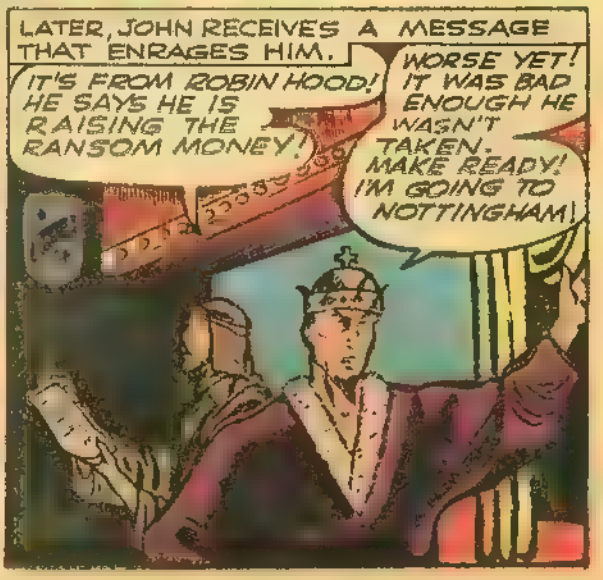

FINALLY, WHAT THE SHERIFF DREADS COMES ABOUT.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU'VE LIFTED OUR PURSES — BUT GIVE ME BACK MY CLOTHES. I'LL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF NOTTING-HAM!
LET THEM HAVE THEIR LAUGH!

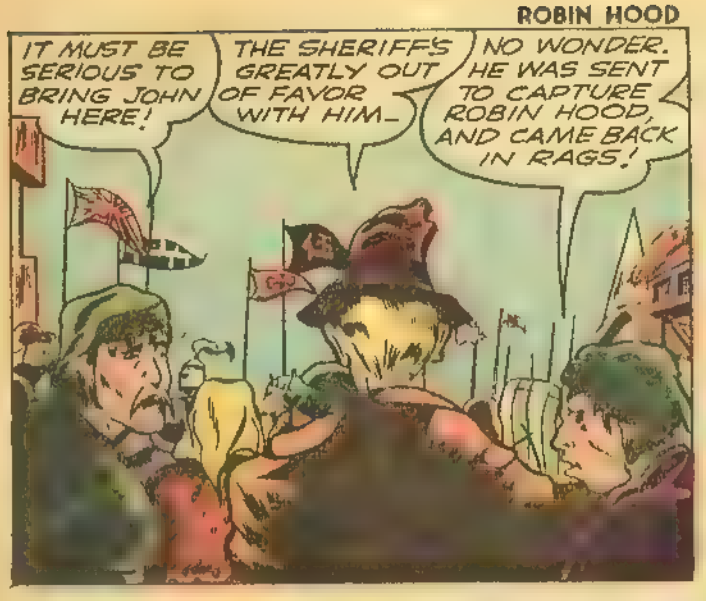

AS THE "GUESTS" ARE RELEASED, THE YOUNG KING'S MAN, WHO LAUGHED SO LOUD, SUDDENLY TURNS BACK.
I BESEECH YOU, LET ME STAY HERE— BY THE GRACE OF KING RICHARD WHOM YOU MUST SAVE!

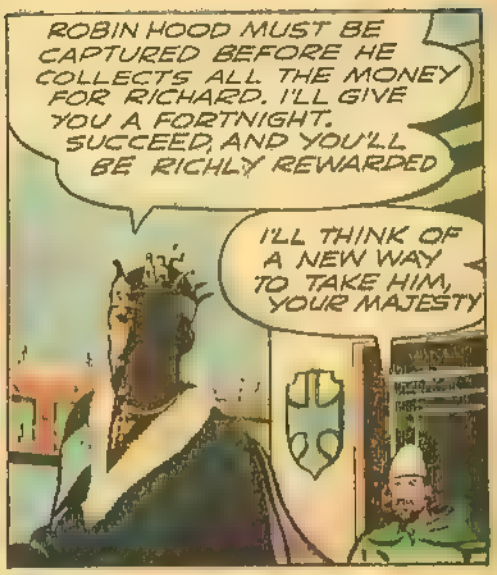
I NEVER WANTED TO SERVE UNDER JOHN. — ESPECIALLY NOW THAT HE IS GOING TO TRICK RICHARD OUT OF THE RANSOM!
SHUT UP, FOOL!
WHAT RANSOM?


I HEARD IT AT JOHN'S COURT. HE WANTS TO COLLECT FROM THE POOR—BUT NOT TO SEND THE RANSOM!
EVIL MIND! I SWEAR RICHARD WILL BE BACK ON THE THRONE! AS FOR THE RANSOM.....


I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF THE COLLECTION. THE PURSES I TOOK TODAY WILL BE THE FIRST OF IT. THANK YOU, FELLOW, FOR THE NEWS. IF YOU ENJOY OUR COMPANY HERE, STAY!
GLADLY!

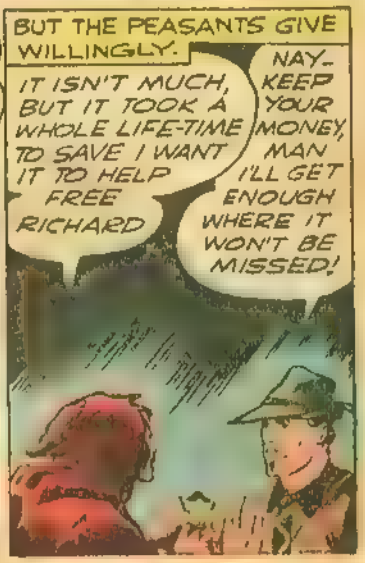

LATER, JOHN RECEIVES A MESSAGE THAT ENRAGES HIM.
IT'S FROM ROBIN HOOD! HE SAYS HE IS RAISING THE RANSOM MONEY!
WORSE YET! IT WAS BAD ENOUGH HE WASN'T TAKEN. MAKE READY! I'M GOING TO NOTTINGHAM!

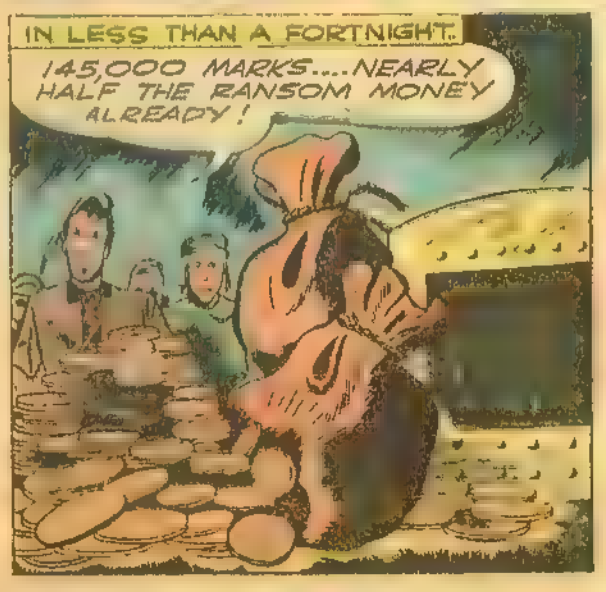

IT MUST BE SERIOUS TO BRING JOHN HERE!
THE SHERIFF'S GREATLY OUT OF FAVOR WITH HIM...
NO WONDER. HE WAS SENT TO CAPTURE ROBIN HOOD, AND CAME BACK IN RAGS!


ROBIN HOOD MUST BE CAPTURED BEFORE HE COLLECTS ALL THE MONEY FOR RICHARD. I'LL GIVE YOU A FORTNIGHT. SUCCEED, AND YOU'LL BE RICHLY REWARDED
I'LL THINK OF A NEW WAY TO TAKE HIM, YOUR MAJESTY

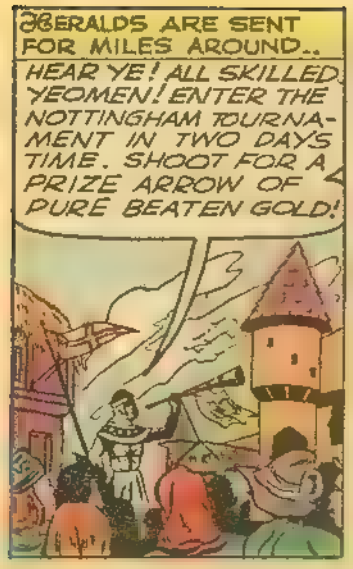
IN THE MEANTIME, THE RANSOM FUND SWELLS.
YOUR PURSES, NOBLEMEN, FOR THE KING'S RANSOM!

WE HAVE NOTHING TO GIVE FOR RICHARD'S RANSOM!
NOTHING? ARE DIAMONDS NOTHING?


BUT THE PEASANTS GIVE WILLINGLY.
IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT IT TOOK A WHOLE LIFE-TIME TO SAVE I WANT IT TO HELP FREE RICHARD
NAY.. KEEP YOUR MONEY, MAN I'LL GET ENOUGH WHERE IT WON'T BE MISSED!

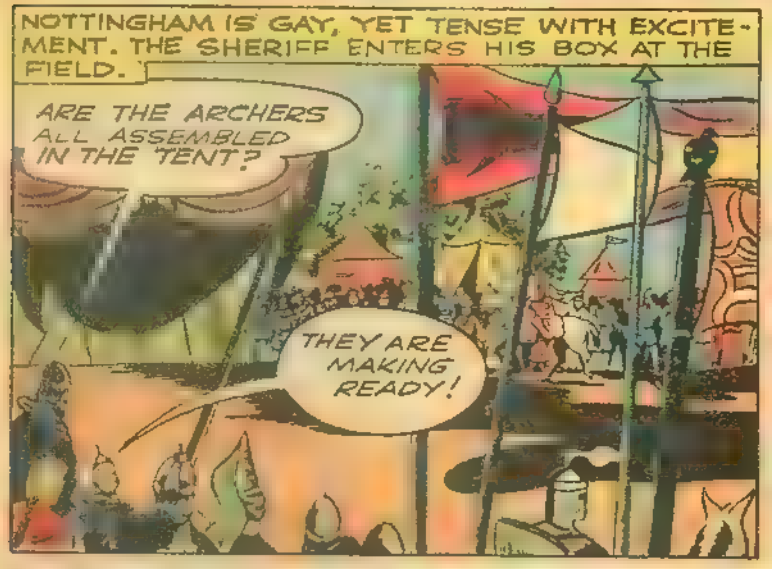

IN LESS THAN A FORTNIGHT.
145,000 MARKS....NEARLY HALF THE RANSOM MONEY ALREADY!

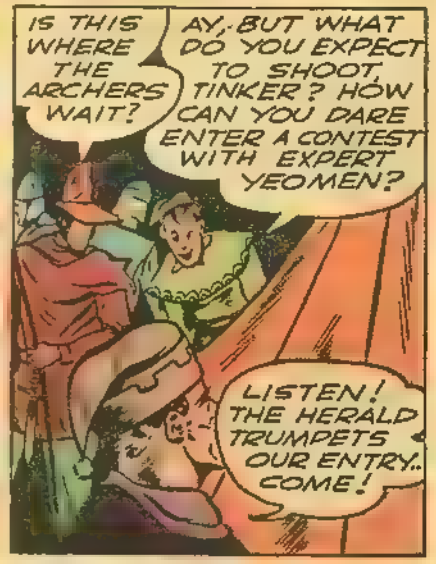
WHILE THE SHERIFF PONDERS....
WE MUST FIND A WAY TO TRAP ROBIN HOOD!
I HAVE IT! I'LL PROCLAIM A GREAT SHOOTING MATCH. ROBIN HOOD TAKES SUCH PRIDE IN HIS ARCHERY SKILL, HE'LL COME TO IT.. AND THEN WE'LL GET HIM!


HERALDS ARE SENT FOR MILES AROUND..
HEAR YE! ALL SKILLED YEOMEN! ENTER THE NOTTINGHAM TOURNAMENT IN TWO DAYS TIME. SHOOT FOR A PRIZE ARROW OF PURE BEATEN GOLD!

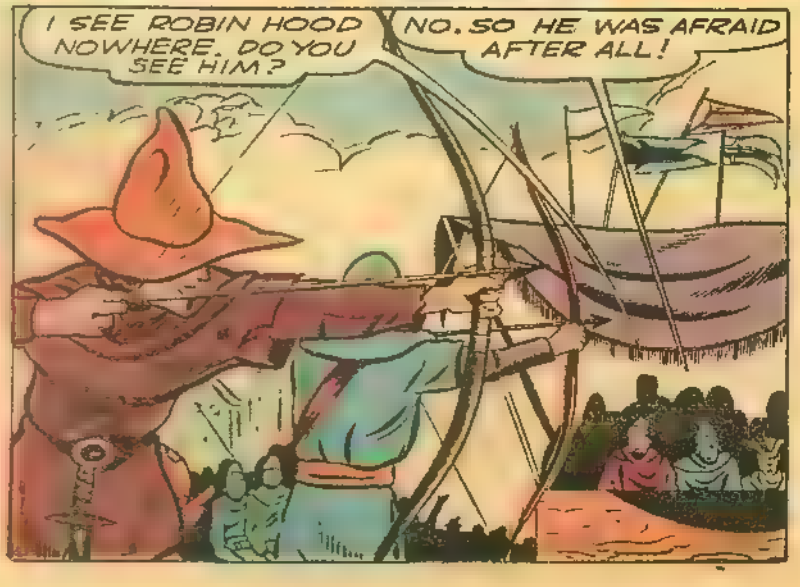
SURELY IT IS A TRAP THE SHERIFF SETS FOR YOU. GO NOT, ROBIN!
AND LET IT BE SAID ROBIN HOOD WAS NOT BOLD ENOUGH TO TRY FOR THE PRIZE? I'LL SHOOT AND WIN — AND HANG THE GOLDEN ARROW TO OUR GREEN-WOOD TREE!

THE DAY OF THE SHOOTING MATCH...
AS A TINKER, I'LL WIN. YOU, MEN, BE THERE AS SPECTATORS. DRESS LIKE BEGGARS, RUSTICS, ANYTHING. BUT CARRY YOUR STOUT BOWS UNDER YOUR GARB!

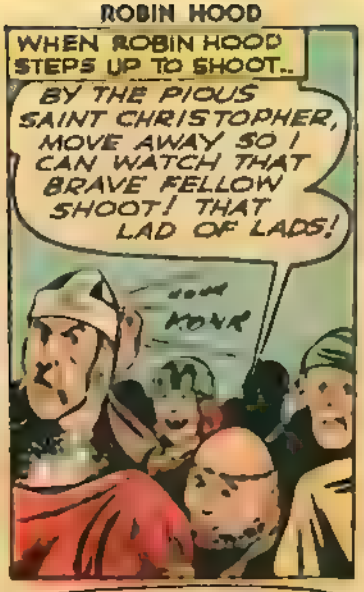

NOTTINGHAM IS GAY, YET TENSE WITH EXCITEMENT. THE SHERIFF ENTERS HIS BOX AT THE FIELD.
ARE THE ARCHERS ALL ASSEMBLED IN THE TENT?
THEY ARE MAKING READY!

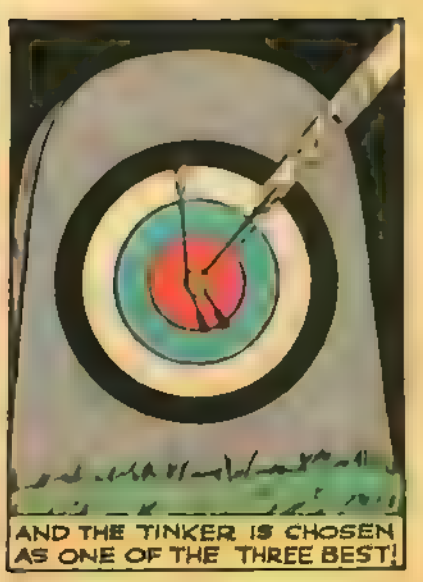

IS THIS WHERE THE ARCHERS WAIT?
AY, BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO SHOOT, TINKER? HOW CAN YOU DARE ENTER A CONTEST WITH EXPERT YEOMEN?
LISTEN! THE HERALD TRUMPETS OUR ENTRY.. COME!

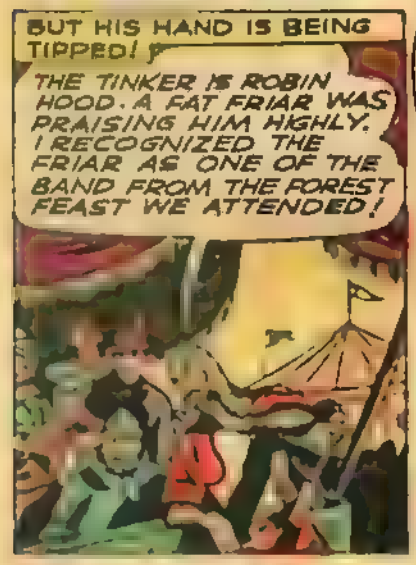
FIRST, ALL ARCHERS WILL SHOOT. FROM THEM, THE TEN BEST WILL BE PICKED. OUT OF THOSE, THE BEST THREE WILL BE CHOSEN TO SHOOT FOR THE PRIZE!


I SEE ROBIN HOOD NOWHERE. DO YOU SEE HIM?
NO. SO HE WAS AFRAID AFTER ALL!

THE TEN ARE PICKED ..
NO THE TINKER DON'T DO BADLY AT THAT!
THIS SHOOTING WILL PUT HIM OUT!

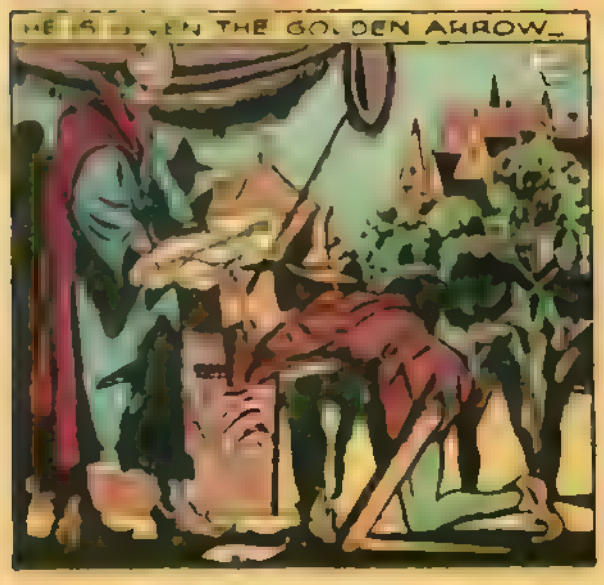

WHEN ROBIN HOOD STEPS UP TO SHOOT..
BY THE PIOUS SAINT CHRISTOPHER, MOVE AWAY SO I CAN WATCH THAT BRAVE FELLOW SHOOT! THAT LAD OF LADS!
HONK


AND THE TINKER IS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE THREE BEST!


BUT HIS HAND IS BEING TIPPED!
THE TINKER IS ROBIN HOOD. A FAT FRIAR WAS PRAISING HIM HIGHLY. I RECOGNIZED THE FRIAR AS ONE OF THE BAND FROM THE FOREST FEAST WE ATTENDED!

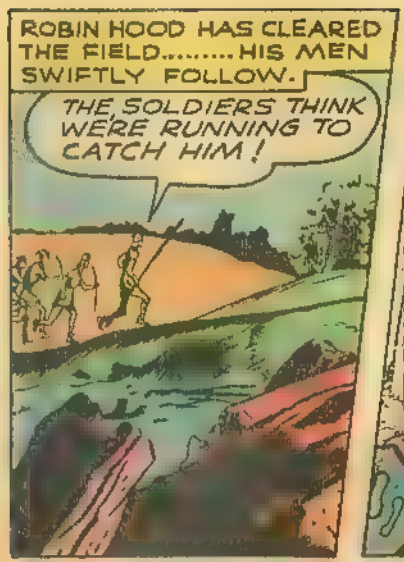
NO WONDER. WHO ELSE COULD SHOOT SO WELL? .... IF HE WINS THE PRIZE, AS I THINK, I'LL DROP THE HANDKERCHIEF ON PRESENTING THE ARROW—AND MY MEN WILL CLOSE IN!

ROBIN HOOD AT THE FINAL ROUND
GREAT SHOOTING
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT OF THE TINKER?

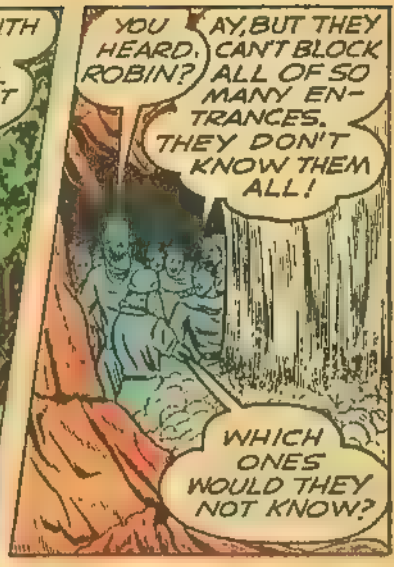

HE IS GIVEN THE GOLDEN ARROW_

CALMLY HE TAKES HIS PRIZE THEN

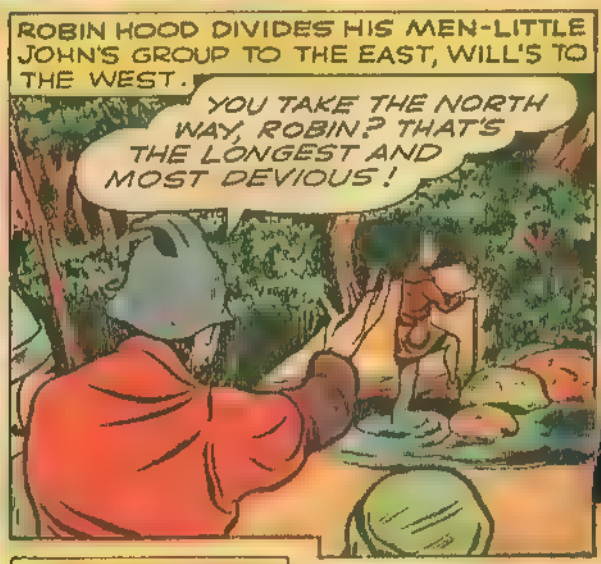
HAOS! PANIC! A BARRAGE OF ARROWS FROM ROBIN HOOD'S MEN CONFUSES THE CROWD, WHILE ROBIN HOOD MAKES HIS DASH FOR FREEDOM.

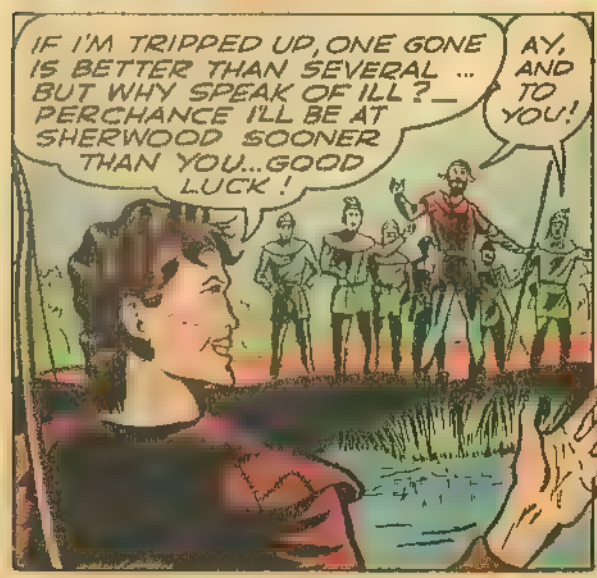

ROBIN HOOD HAS CLEARED THE FIELD.....HIS MEN SWIFTLY FOLLOW.
THE SOLDIERS THINK WERE RUNNING TO CATCH HIM!

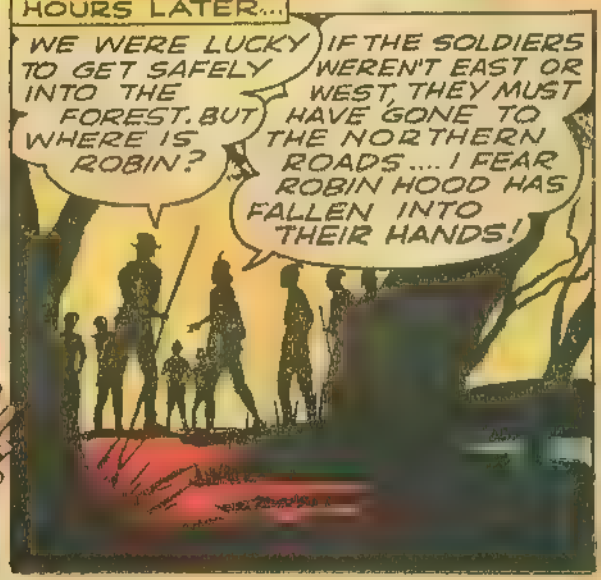
THEY GOT AWAY.. RIDE WITH SPEED TO SHERWOOD FOREST AND BLOCK ALL ENTRANCES. THEY MUST NOT GET BACK INTO THE FOREST.

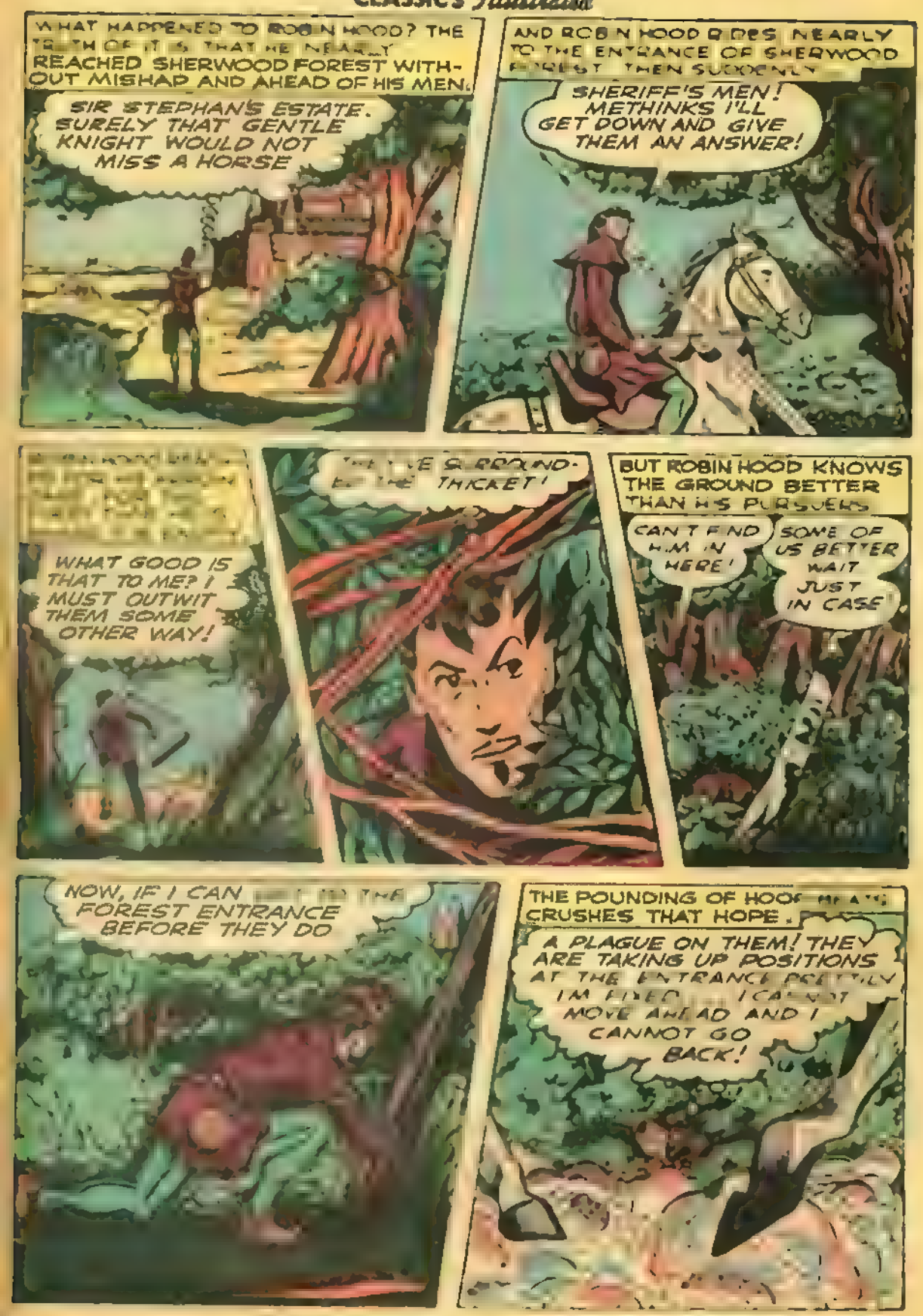

YOU HEARD, ROBIN?
AY, BUT THEY CAN'T BLOCK ALL OF SO MANY EN-TRANCES. THEY DON'T KNOW THEM ALL!
WHICH ONES WOULD THEY NOT KNOW?

THAT WE CAN'T JUDGE... SO WE'LL SEPARATE. IF ONE WAY IS GUARDED, PERCHANCE ANOTHER WILL BE FREE. SOME OF US WILL GET BACK FOR SURE!


ROBIN HOOD DIVIDES HIS MEN-LITTLE JOHN'S GROUP TO THE EAST, WILL'S TO THE WEST.
YOU TAKE THE NORTH WAY, ROBIN? THAT'S THE LONGEST AND MOST DEVIOUS!


IF I'M TRIPPED UP, ONE GONE IS BETTER THAN SEVERAL ... BUT WHY SPEAK OF ILL?— PERCHANCE I'LL BE AT SHERWOOD SOONER THAN YOU...GOOD LUCK!
AY, AND TO YOU!

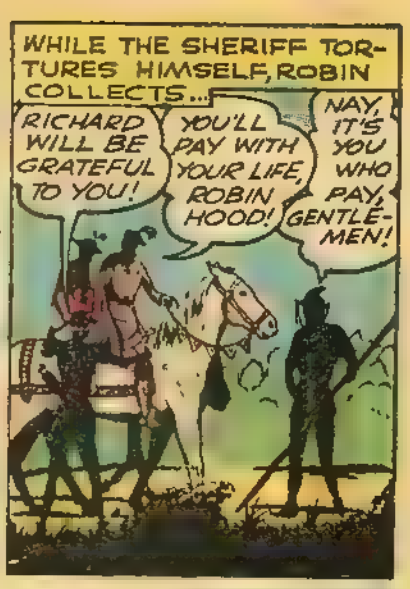

HOURS LATER...
WE WERE LUCKY TO GET SAFELY INTO THE FOREST. BUT WHERE IS ROBIN?
IF THE SOLDIERS WEREN'T EAST OR WEST, THEY MUST HAVE GONE TO THE NORTHERN ROADS.... I FEAR ROBIN HOOD HAS FALLEN INTO THEIR HANDS!

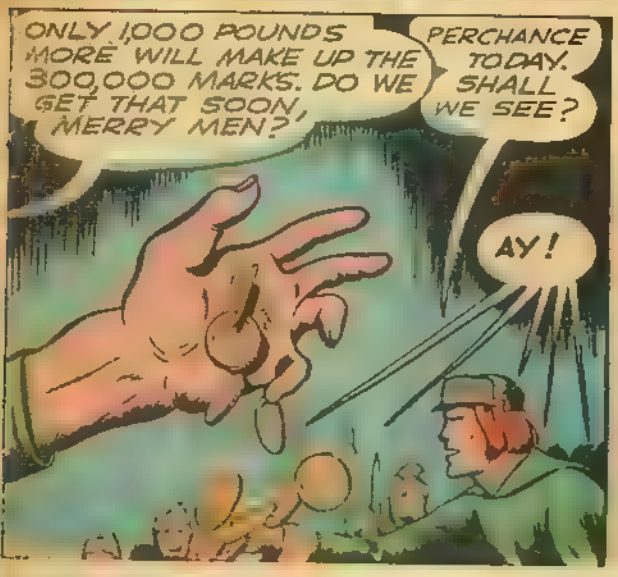

WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBIN HOOD? THE TRUTH OF IT IS THAT HE NEARLY REACHED SHERWOOD FOREST WITHOUT MISHAP AND AHEAD OF HIS MEN.
SIR STEPHAN'S ESTATE. SURELY THAT GENTLE KNIGHT WOULD NOT MISS A HORSE
AND ROBIN HOOD RIDES NEARLY TO THE ENTRANCE OF SHERWOOD FOREST. THEN SUDDENLY
SHERIFF'S MEN! METHINKS I'LL GET DOWN AND GIVE THEM AN ANSWER!
WHAT GOOD IS THAT TO ME? I MUST OUTWIT THEM SOME OTHER WAY!
THICKET!
BUT ROBIN HOOD KNOWS THE GROUND BETTER THAN HIS PURSUERS
CAN'T FIND HIM IN HERE!
SOME OF US BETTER WAIT JUST IN CASE!
NOW, IF I CAN FOREST ENTRANCE BEFORE THEY DO
THE POUNDING OF HOOF CRUSHES THAT HOPE.
A PLAGUE ON THEM! THEY ARE TAKING UP POSITIONS AT THE ENTRANCE. I'M FIXED. I CANNOT MOVE AHEAD AND I CANNOT GO BACK!

STYMIED, ROBIN HOOD SITS BEHIND A HEDGE, WATCHING FOR A POSSIBLE CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK-THROUGH-A VOICE BEHIND HIM STARTLES HIM.
SHOON, SHOON!
WHAT THE?- I HAD BETTER HIDE.
A COBBLER! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM, MY PRETTY FELLOW?
I WAS ASLEEP IN YON GRASS. WHAT DO YOU HERE BENEATH YON HEDGE?
ROBIN HAS AN IDEA, WORKABLE IF THE FELLOW'S WITS MATCH HIS DULL FACE.
I SIT HERE TO DROP SALT ON THE TAILS OF GOLDEN BIRDS!
I WOULD LIKE SOME GOLDEN BIRDS, TOO. YOU CAN CATCH THEM WITH SALT?
YES, BUT I'M TIRED OF IT. I WOULD RATHER FIX SHOES. I WILL GIVE YOU TEN SHILLINGS AND MY CLOTHES FOR YOUR CLOTHES AND REPAIR BOX!
BUT YOUR CLOTHES ARE SO MUCH PRETTIER AND COSTLY!
NO MATTER. I AM WEARIED OF THEM, EVEN THOUGH THE GOLDEN BIRDS LIKE THE COLORING!
THE BIRDS LIKE IT? I'LL NOT WAIT A MOMENT LONGER!
ALACK, ALAS! I HAVE NO SALT!
I'VE NO MORE LEFT. BUT IF YOU GO WITH ME TO MY HOUSE ACROSS THE PATH....
THE SHERIFF'S MEN SEE THEM-AND...
WE GOT YOU, ROBIN HOOD!
ROBIN HOOD! WHO IS ROBIN HOOD?
YOU WASTE EFFORT TRYING TO MUDDLE US. COME NOW, THE SHERIFF WILL BE PLEASED WITH YOU!

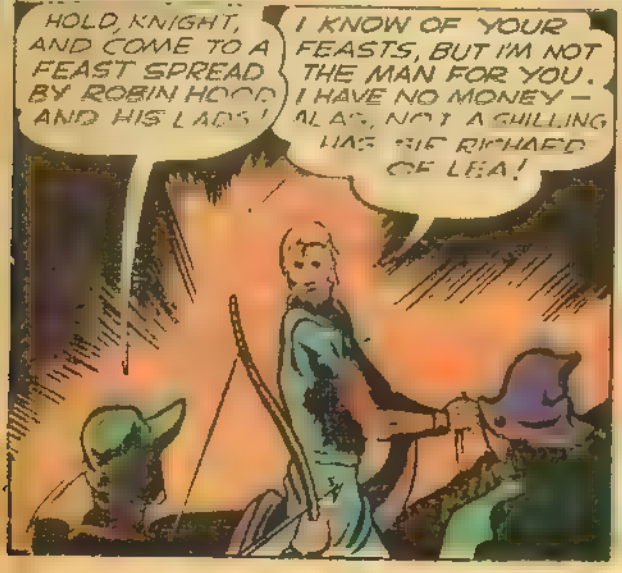
LITTLE DID I THINK I'D COME BACK A COBBLER. POOR, WITLESS FELLOW. BUT NO HARM WILL COME TO HIM!

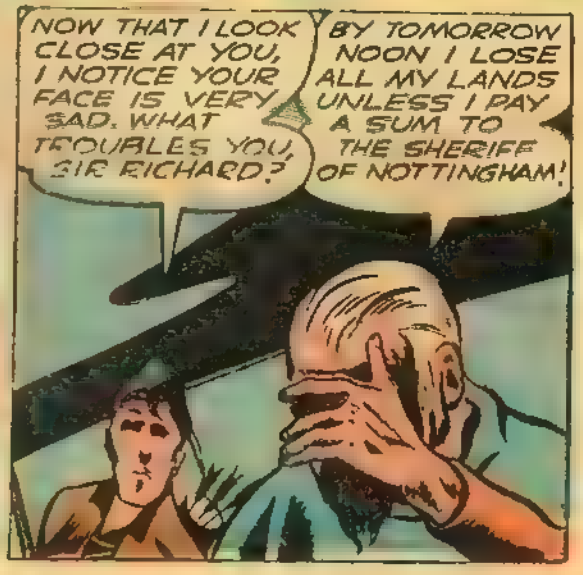
HE'S NOT ROBIN HOOD!
FOOLS! LET HIM GO WITH HIS PRATTLE! ONLY THREE MORE DAYS LEFT TO THE FORTNIGHT.- HOW WILL I CATCH HIM?


WHILE THE SHERIFF TORTURES HIMSELF, ROBIN COLLECTS...
RICHARD WILL BE GRATEFUL TO YOU!
YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR LIFE, ROBIN HOOD!
NAY, IT'S YOU WHO PAY, GENTLEMEN!


ONLY 1,000 POUNDS MORE WILL MAKE UP THE 300,000 MARKS. DO WE GET THAT SOON, MERRY MEN?
PERCHANCE TODAY. SHALL WE SEE?
AY!

HERE COME SOME PICKINGS FOR A HUNGRY DAW!


HOLD, KNIGHT, AND COME TO A FEAST SPREAD BY ROBIN HOOD AND HIS LADS!
I KNOW OF YOUR FEASTS, BUT I'M NOT THE MAN FOR YOU. I HAVE NO MONEY — ALAS, NOT A SHILLING HAS SIR RICHARD OF LEA!

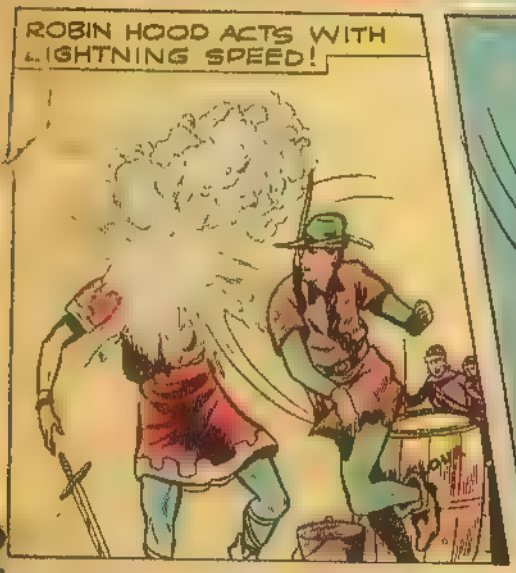

NOW THAT I LOOK CLOSE AT YOU, I NOTICE YOUR FACE IS VERY SAD. WHAT TROUBLES YOU, SIR RICHARD?
BY TOMORROW NOON I LOSE ALL MY LANDS UNLESS I PAY A SUM TO THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM!

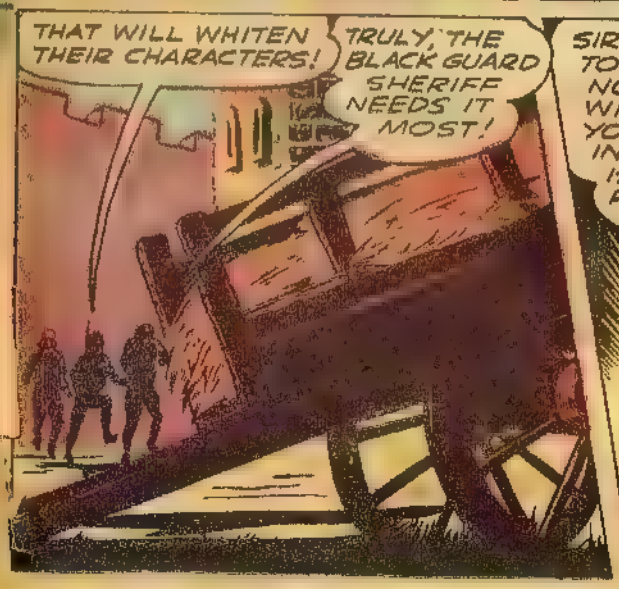
THE SHERIFF? COME WITH US, AND FEAST WITHOUT CHARGE. TELL US WHAT THE SHERIFF DEMANDS OF YOU? PERCHANCE WE MAY HELP YOU!
MY SON, A GOODLY LAD, WAS WRONGFULLY ACCUSED OF A SLAYING. THEY SAID MONEY WOULD KEEP HIM FROM GOING TO PRISON. THEY TOOK ALL I HAD AND DEMANDED 400 POUNDS MORE. SO I HAD TO PAWN MY ESTATE TO THE SHERIFF FOR 400 POUNDS
FOR ONLY 400 POUNDS YOU LOSE A FINE ESTATE WORTH THOUSANDS!
IT WILL BREAK MY GOOD WIFE'S HEART NOT TO HAVE A HOME ANY MORE
THAT BLOOD-SUCKING, SNIVELLING SHERIFF!
HE'S EVEN TAKEN OVER THE COLLECTIONS ON MY LAND. TONIGHT HE'LL GET 1500 POUNDS FOR TITHES AND PRODUCE SOLD AT MARKET!
METHINKS THE SHERIFF NEEDS SOME BUSINESS, EH, ROBIN?
WE'LL SERVE TWO RICHARDS, YOURSELF AND THE KING!
1500 POUNDS IN THIS BAG—AND TOMORROW IT WILL ALL BE MINE. YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY PAPERS DRAWN UP, LAWYER?
ALL OF THEM. HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RAISE THE 400 POUNDS!
I'LL TAKE THAT BAG YOU HOLD. IT GOES WELL WITH MY SUIT!
ROBIN HOOD!
SHHH—NOT SO LOUD! WE KNOW HIS NAME!
—GULP—
THIS WILL QUIET THEM!
STOP, THIEVES!
LAWYER! GET YOUR FOOT OUT OF MY FACE!
HO-GUARDS! QUICK, JOHN, TAKE THE MONEY WHILE I DEAL WITH THEM!
FLOUR

IF THERE IS A WAY TO KEEP FROM SPILLING BLOOD--

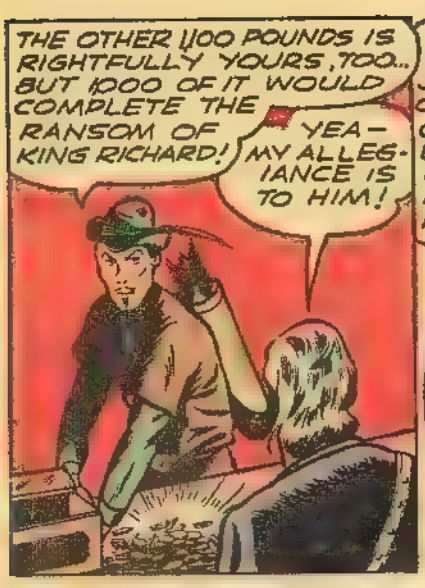
HALT
FLOUR

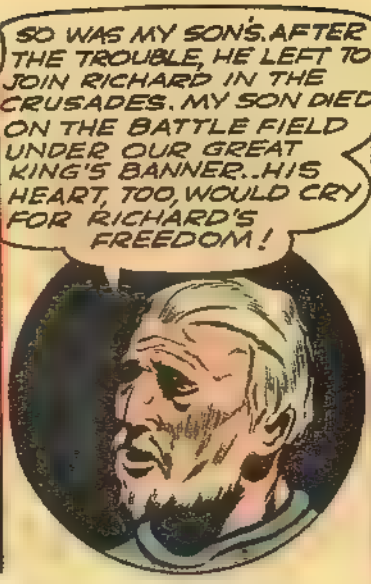
OR I'LL RUN YOU THROUGH!

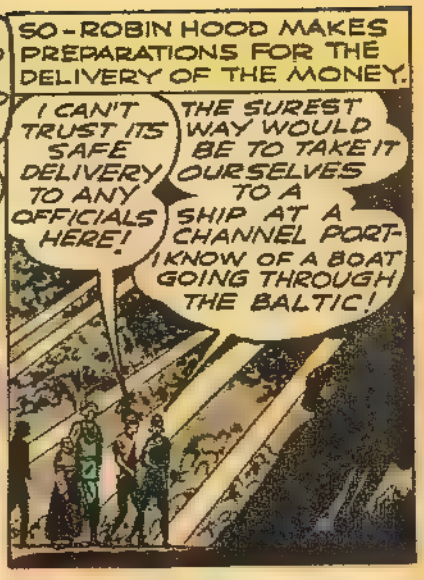

ROBIN HOOD ACTS WITH LIGHTNING SPEED!

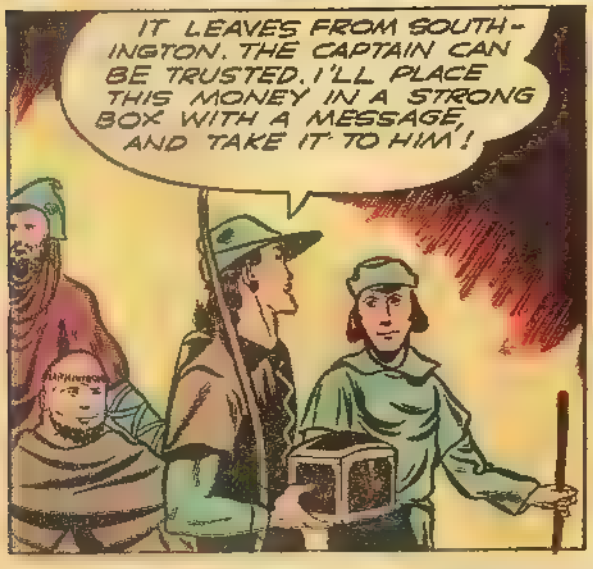

THAT WILL WHITEN THEIR CHARACTERS!
TRULY, THE BLACK GUARD SHERIFF NEEDS IT MOST!

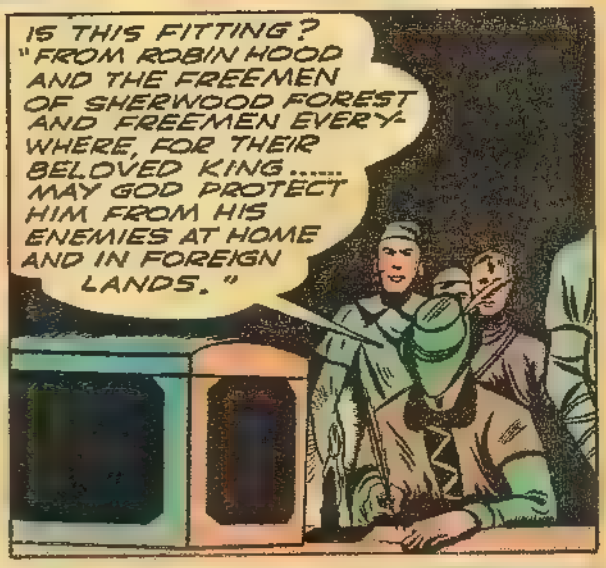
SIR RICHARD, TOMORROW NOON YOU WILL RECLAIM YOUR ESTATE. IN THIS BAG IS 400 POUNDS!
I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH!

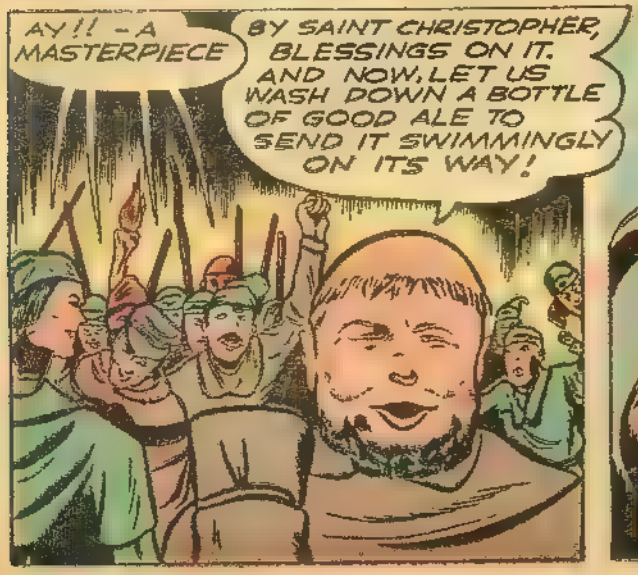

THE OTHER 1100 POUNDS IS RIGHTFULLY YOURS, TOO... BUT 1000 OF IT WOULD COMPLETE THE RANSOM OF KING RICHARD!
YEA — MY ALLEGIANCE IS TO HIM!


SO WAS MY SON'S. AFTER THE TROUBLE, HE LEFT TO JOIN RICHARD IN THE CRUSADES. MY SON DIED ON THE BATTLE FIELD UNDER OUR GREAT KING'S BANNER..HIS HEART, TOO, WOULD CRY FOR RICHARD'S FREEDOM!


SO - ROBIN HOOD MAKES PREPARATIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE MONEY.
I CAN'T TRUST ITS SAFE DELIVERY TO ANY OFFICIALS HERE!
THE SUREST WAY WOULD BE TO TAKE IT OURSELVES TO A SHIP AT A CHANNEL PORT- I KNOW OF A BOAT GOING THROUGH THE BALTIC!


IT LEAVES FROM SOUTHINGTON. THE CAPTAIN CAN BE TRUSTED. I'LL PLACE THIS MONEY IN A STRONG BOX WITH A MESSAGE, AND TAKE IT TO HIM!

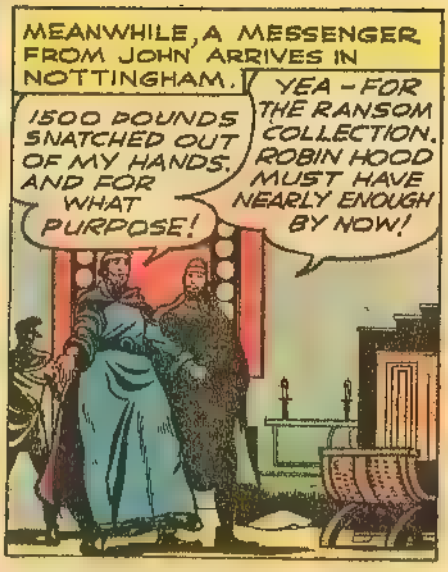

IS THIS FITTING? "FROM ROBIN HOOD AND THE FREEMEN OF SHERWOOD FOREST AND FREEMEN EVERYWHERE, FOR THEIR BELOVED KING..... MAY GOD PROTECT HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES AT HOME AND IN FOREIGN LANDS."


AY!! - A MASTERPIECE
BY SAINT CHRISTOPHER, BLESSINGS ON IT. AND NOW, LET US WASH DOWN A BOTTLE OF GOOD ALE TO SEND IT SWIMMINGLY ON ITS WAY!

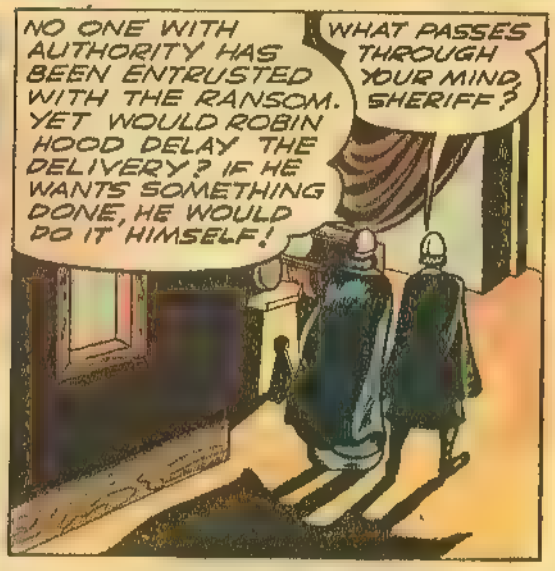
WE HAVE SUCH AN ASSORTMENT OF COSTUMES FROM OUR GUESTS. METHINKS, THIS TIME, I WILL BE A MONK CARRYING, A SACRAMENTAL BOX!

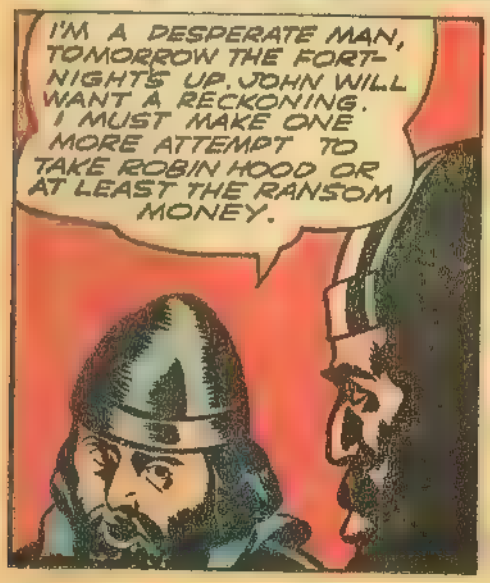
YOU MAKE A HOLY MAN WITHOUT DOUBT. AND A HOLY MISSION YOU GO ON! GOD SPEED!

STEP UP, FATHER!

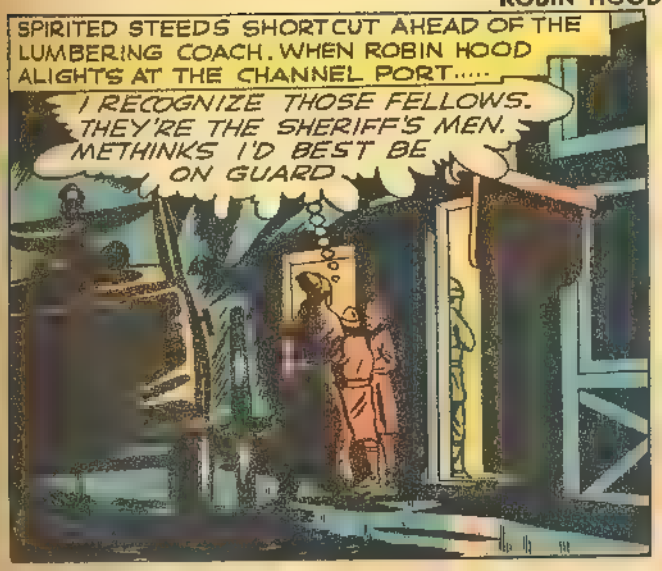

MEANWHILE, A MESSENGER FROM JOHN ARRIVES IN NOTTINGHAM.
1500 POUNDS SNATCHED OUT OF MY HANDS. AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE!
YEA - FOR THE RANSOM COLLECTION. ROBIN HOOD MUST HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH BY NOW!

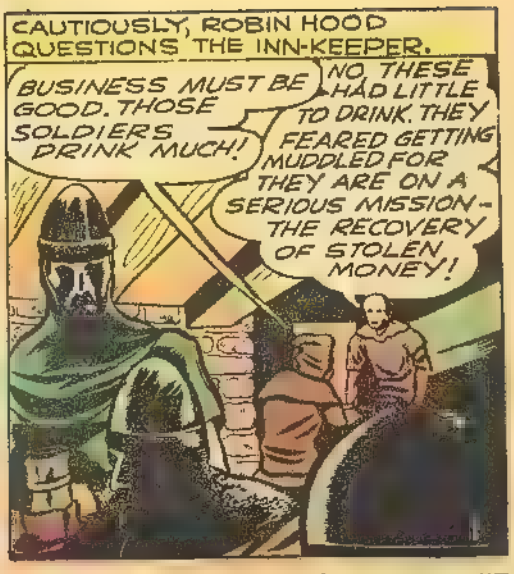
NEARLY? BY FAITH, HE HAS ENOUGH. THIS PAPER IS A LIST OF THOSE WHO REPORTED TO ME WHAT HE TOOK FROM THEM. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT TO CONSULT IT BEFORE!

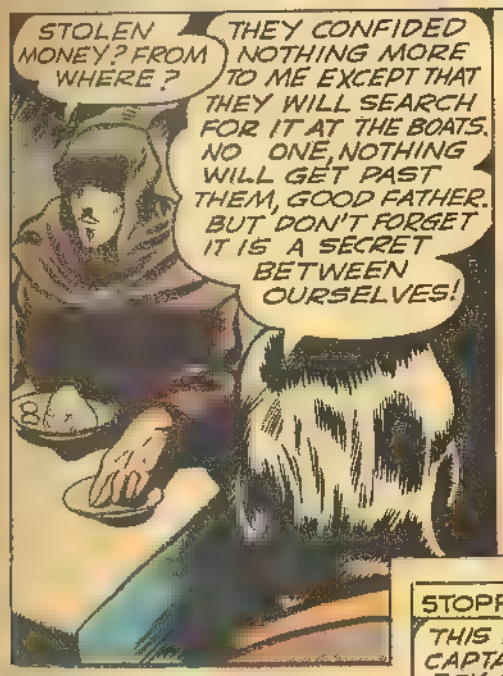

WHAT PASSES THROUGH YOUR MIND, SHERIFF?
NO ONE WITH AUTHORITY HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH THE RANSOM. YET WOULD ROBIN HOOD DELAY THE DELIVERY? IF HE WANTS SOMETHING DONE, HE WOULD DO IT HIMSELF!


I'M A DESPERATE MAN, TOMORROW THE FORTNIGHTS UP. JOHN WILL WANT A RECKONING. I MUST MAKE ONE MORE ATTEMPT TO TAKE ROBIN HOOD OR AT LEAST THE RANSOM MONEY.

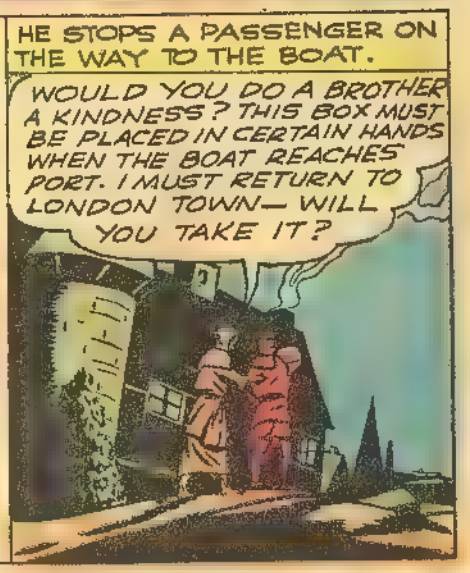
RIDE WITH ALL HASTE TO SOUTHINGTON. A BOAT THROUGH THE BALTIC LEAVES FROM THERE. I SUSPECT ROBIN HOOD WILL BOARD ONE, OR TRY TO GET THE MONEY ABOARD. SEARCH EVERYONE!

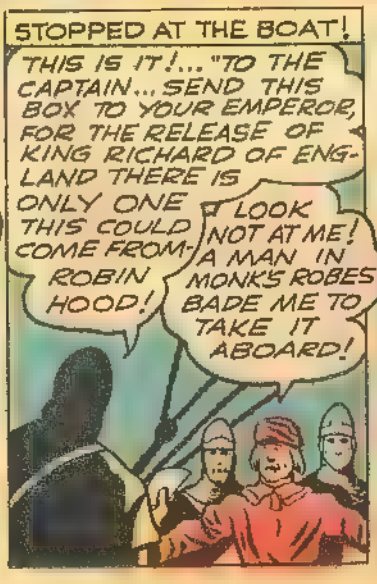


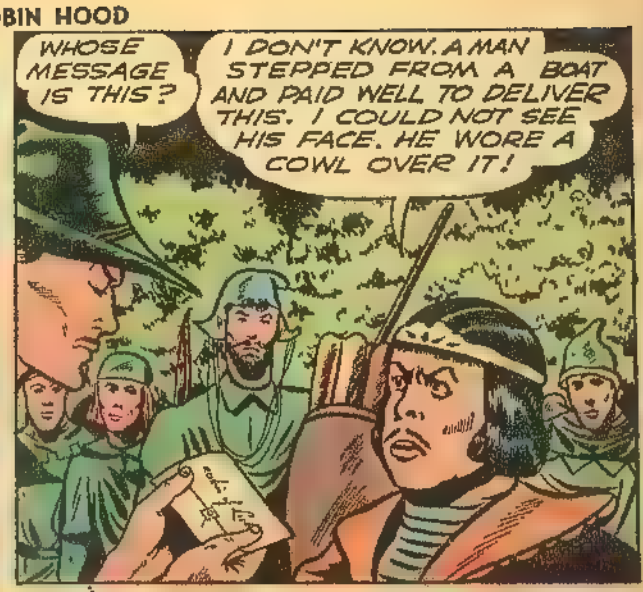

A FEW MINUTES LATER ROBIN HOOD FINDS A SECLUDED SPOT. QUICKLY, HE EMPTIES THE MONEY FROM THE STRONG BOX INTO A SACK, REFILLS THE STRONG BOX WITH STONES, AND LOCKS IT SECURELY.

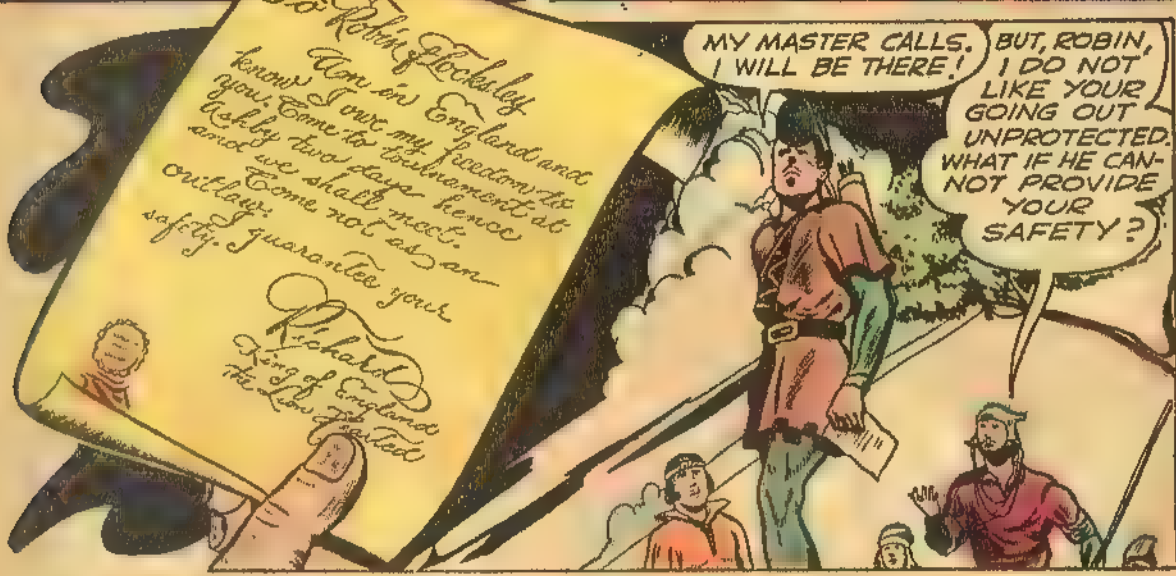


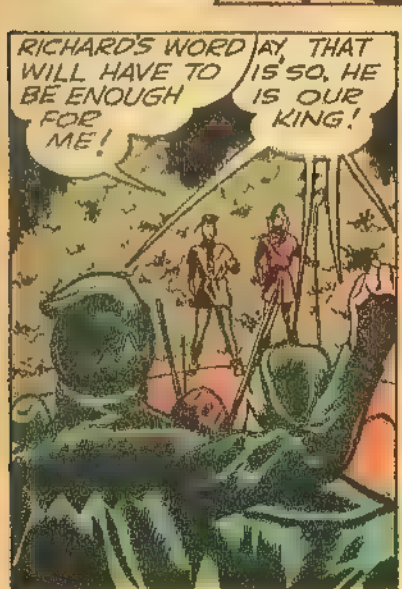


THE MOMENT THE SOLDIERS DEPART, ROBIN HOOD BOARDS THE BOAT.....
THE MONEY IN HERE IS FROM THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND, FOR THE RANSOM OF THEIR SOVEREIGN, RICHARD!
IT WILL BE SAFELY DELIVERED. YOU HAVE MY PROMISE, HOLY FATHER!
FINALLY THE MONEY IS PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE FOR EIGN EMPEROR. BUT THE BAG IS EMPTIED SO HASTILY THAT A MESSAGE FROM ROBIN HOOD STILL REMAINS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SACK. THE EMPEROR SIGNS AN ORDER FOR RICHARD'S RE-EASE.
RICHARD HAS NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS LIBERATION.
FREE! I HAD NOT THOUGHT THAT MY BROTHER JOHN WOULD FURNISH THE RANSOM. I DID MISJUDGE THE MAN!
MEANWHILE, THE SOLDIERS, WHEN THEY FIND NO TRAIL OF ROBIN HOOD, BRING THE STRONG-BOX TO THE SHERIFF.
ROCKS! WHAT JEST IS THIS?
ALAS! THE VILLAIN ROBIN HOOD HAS TRICKED US!
THE NEXT DAY IS THE SHERIFF'S DAY OF RECKONING HIS FORT-NIGHT HAS EXPIRED!
I CHARGED YOU WITH A DUTY. YOU FAILED ME!
I HAVE DONE ALL IN MY POWER. BUT ROBIN HOOD IS NO ORDIN-ARY KNAVE!
PERHAPS NOT TO YOU, BUT I HAVE GIVEN THE MATTER MUCH THOUGHT. WHY DO I NOT TRY MY HAND AT CAPTURING HIM? I WILL ENSNARE HIM AT A TOURNAMENT!
A TOURNAMENT? I TRIED THAT. HE CAME IN DISGUISE!
HE WILL COME TO THIS ONE UNDISGUISED. I CAN MAKE MY HAND WRITING LOOK LIKE SOMEONE ELSE'S, WHOSE CALL ROBIN HOOD WILL HEED!

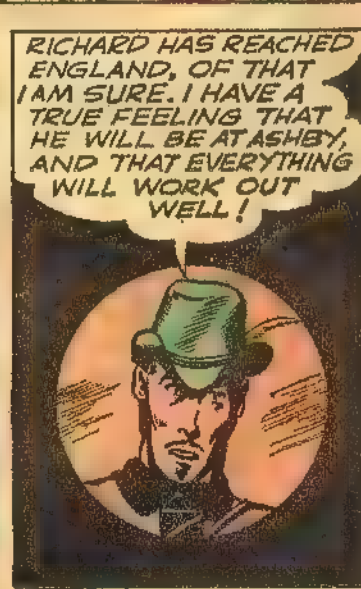
SEVERAL DAYS LATER A TRUMPET SOUNDS LOUDLY IN SHERWOOD FOREST.
WHAT WAS THAT? THE ONLY HORN I EVER HEARD IN THESE WOODS IS THE ONE I BLOW!
A HERALD APPROACHES

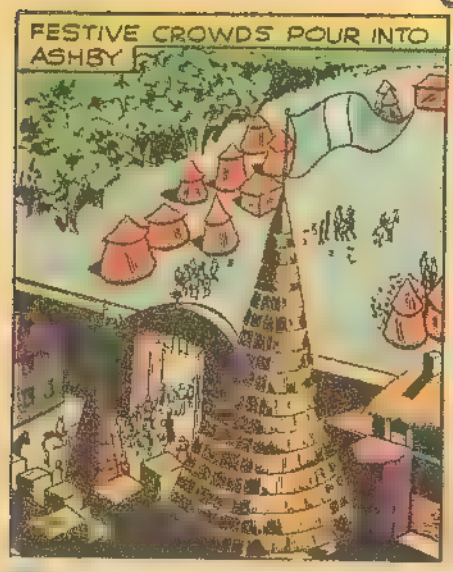

WHOSE MESSAGE IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW. A MAN STEPPED FROM A BOAT AND PAID WELL TO DELIVER THIS. I COULD NOT SEE HIS FACE. HE WORE A COWL OVER IT!

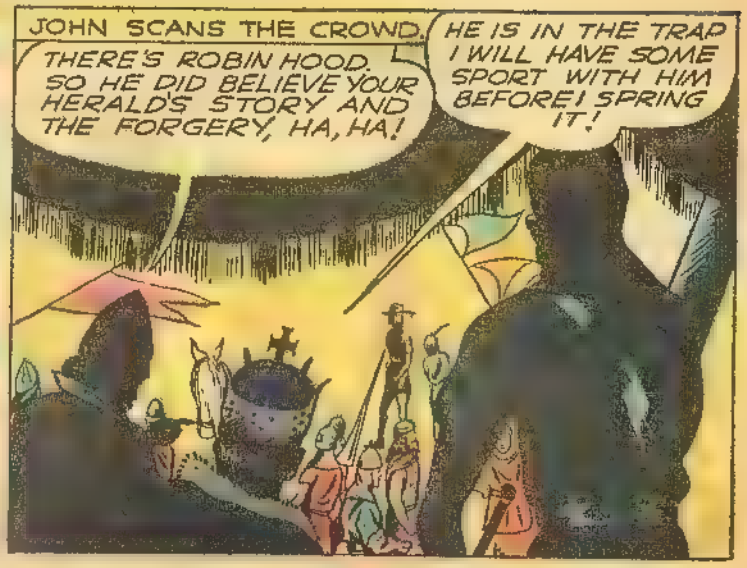

To Robin of Locksley
Now in England and know I owe my freedom to you. Come to tournament at Ashby two days hence and we shall meet. Come not as an outlaw. I guarantee your safety.
Richard
King of England
the Lion Hearted
MY MASTER CALLS. I WILL BE THERE!
BUT, ROBIN, I DO NOT LIKE YOUR GOING OUT UNPROTECTED. WHAT IF HE CANNOT PROVIDE YOUR SAFETY?


RICHARD'S WORD WILL HAVE TO BE ENOUGH FOR ME!
AY, THAT IS SO. HE IS OUR KING!

ROBIN HOOD SETS OUT FOR ASHBY.
COULD IT BE SOME TRICK THAT VILE JOHN ARRANGES?
AND IF IT IS NOT AND I DO NOT GO? WILL I NOT LOOK LIKE A COWARD AND DISBELIEVER IN MY KING'S WORD?

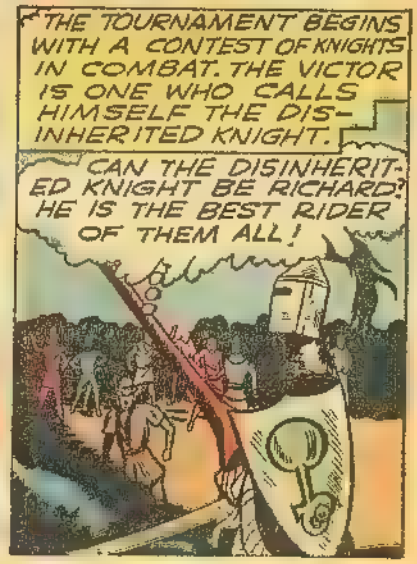

RICHARD HAS REACHED ENGLAND, OF THAT I AM SURE. I HAVE A TRUE FEELING THAT HE WILL BE AT ASHBY, AND THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT WELL!


FESTIVE CROWDS POUR INTO ASHBY

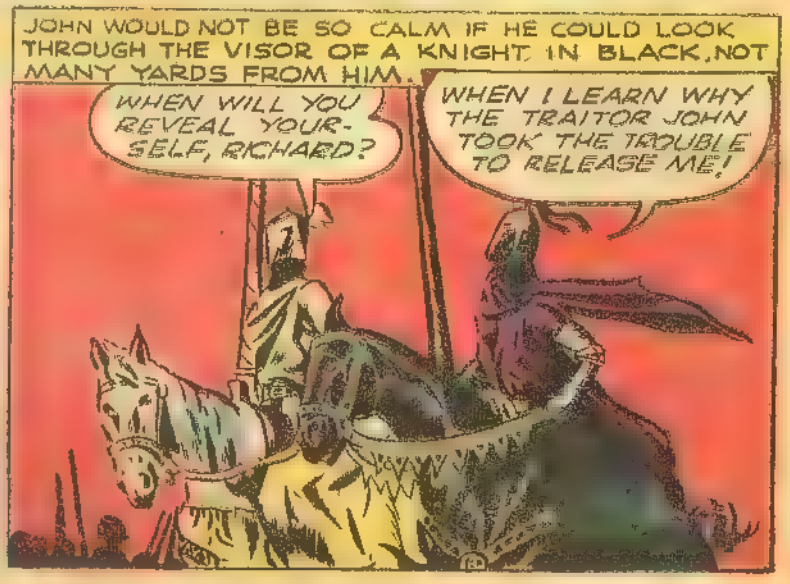

JOHN SCANS THE CROWD.
THERE'S ROBIN HOOD. SO HE DID BELIEVE YOUR HERALD'S STORY AND THE FORGERY, HA, HA!
HE IS IN THE TRAP I WILL HAVE SOME SPORT WITH HIM BEFORE I SPRING IT!

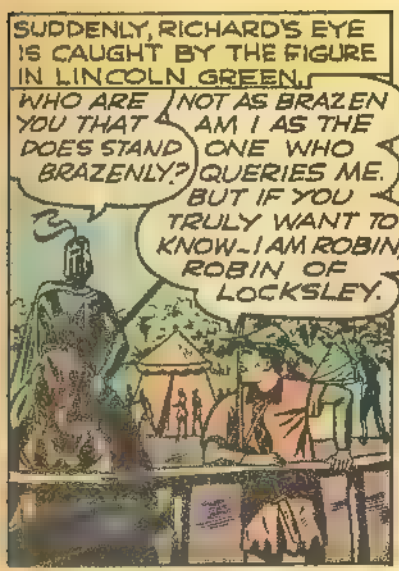
I SEE NO KING RICHARD. NOR HEAR ANY WORD THAT HE IS PRESENT. YET HE MAY BE DISGUISED AND MAKE HIMSELF KNOWN TO ME!

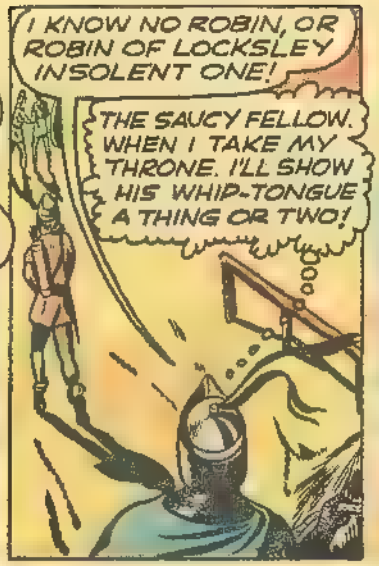
JOHN AND THE SHERIFF, TWO VILLAINS SITTING TOGETHER. THAT LOOKS NOT GOOD. BUT NO MATTER WHAT... I'LL STAND MY GROUND!

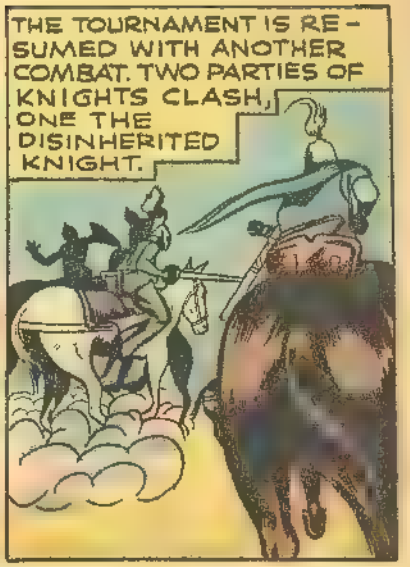

THE TOURNAMENT BEGINS WITH A CONTEST OF KNIGHTS IN COMBAT. THE VICTOR IS ONE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT.
CAN THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT BE RICHARD? HE IS THE BEST RIDER OF THEM ALL!

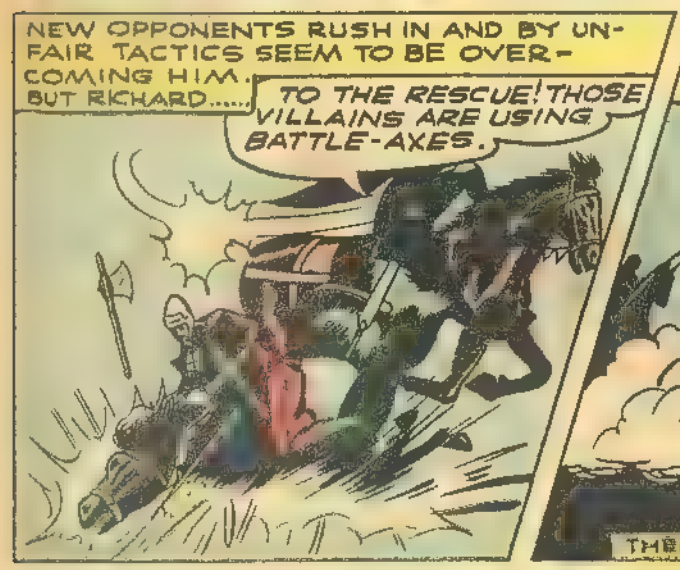
A LIKE THOUGHT FLASHES THROUGH JOHN'S MIND.
BUT NAY, RICHARD IS A MUCH LARGER MAN. WHY THINK I THAT HE MAY BE HERE? I SHOULD NOT GIVE HIM A THOUGHT

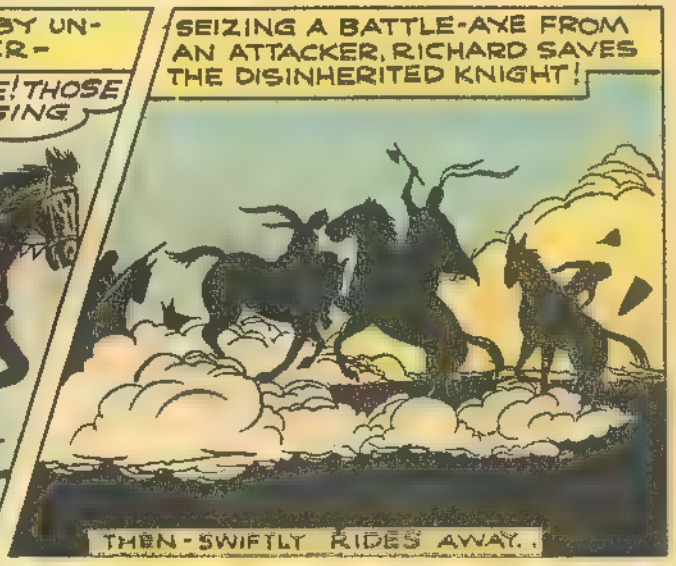

JOHN WOULD NOT BE SO CALM IF HE COULD LOOK THROUGH THE VISOR OF A KNIGHT IN BLACK, NOT MANY YARDS FROM HIM.
WHEN WILL YOU REVEAL YOURSELF, RICHARD?
WHEN I LEARN WHY THE TRAITOR JOHN TOOK THE TROUBLE TO RELEASE ME!

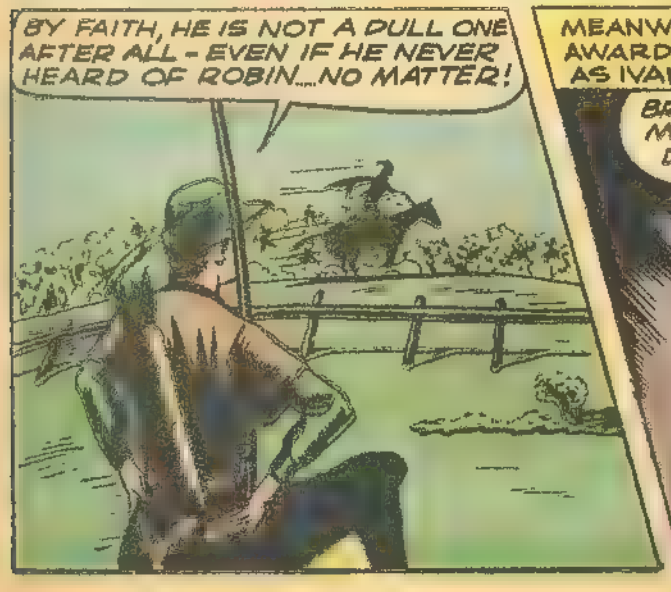

SUDDENLY, RICHARD'S EYE IS CAUGHT BY THE FIGURE IN LINCOLN GREEN.
WHO ARE YOU THAT DOES STAND BRAZENLY?
NOT AS BRAZEN AM I AS THE ONE WHO QUERIES ME. BUT IF YOU TRULY WANT TO KNOW-I AM ROBIN, ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY.

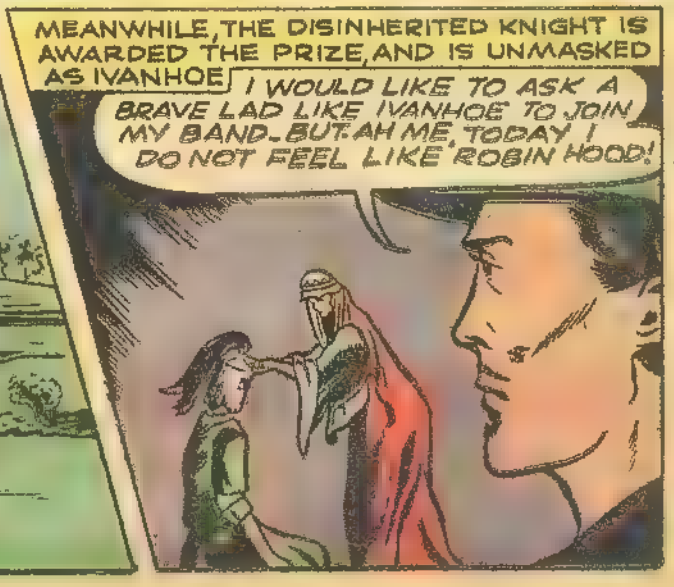

I KNOW NO ROBIN, OR ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY INSOLENT ONE!
THE SAUCY FELLOW. WHEN I TAKE MY THRONE. I'LL SHOW HIS WHIP-TONGUE A THING OR TWO!


THE TOURNAMENT IS RE-SUMED WITH ANOTHER COMBAT. TWO PARTIES OF KNIGHTS CLASH, ONE THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT.

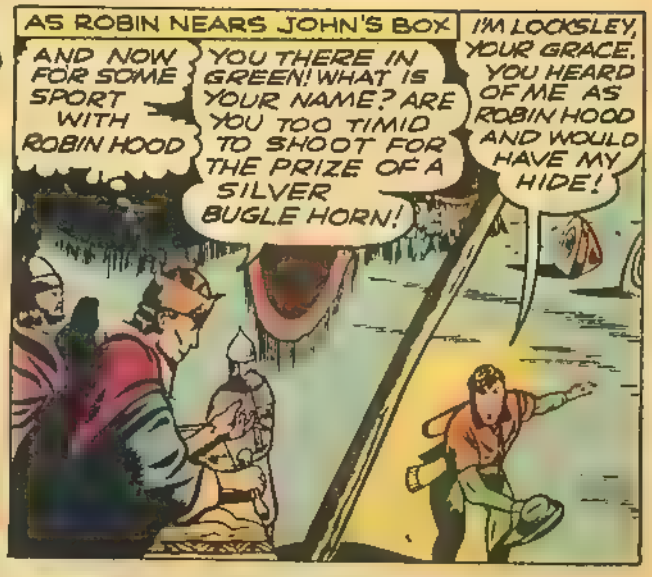

NEW OPPONENTS RUSH IN AND BY UN-FAIR TACTICS SEEM TO BE OVER-COMING HIM. BUT RICHARD.....
TO THE RESCUE! THOSE VILLAINS ARE USING BATTLE-AXES.


SEIZING A BATTLE-AXE FROM AN ATTACKER, RICHARD SAVES THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT!
THEN-SWIFTLY RIDES AWAY..


BY FAITH, HE IS NOT A DULL ONE AFTER ALL - EVEN IF HE NEVER HEARD OF ROBIN...NO MATTER!

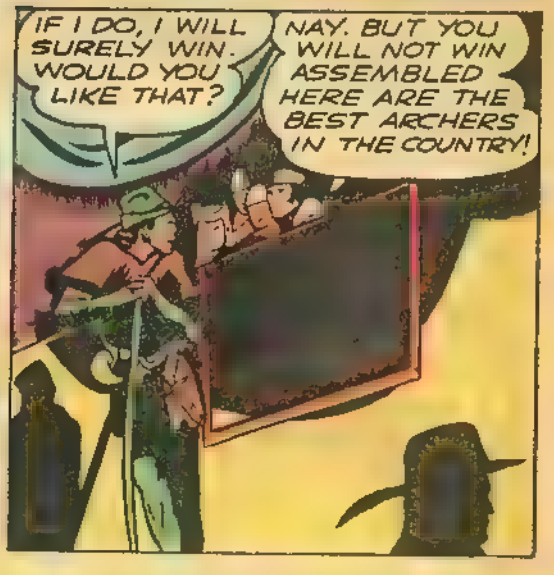

MEANWHILE, THE DISINHERITED KNIGHT IS AWARDED THE PRIZE, AND IS UNMASKED AS IVANHOE.
I WOULD LIKE TO ASK A BRAVE LAD LIKE IVANHOE TO JOIN MY BAND-BUT AH ME, TODAY I DO NOT FEEL LIKE ROBIN HOOD!

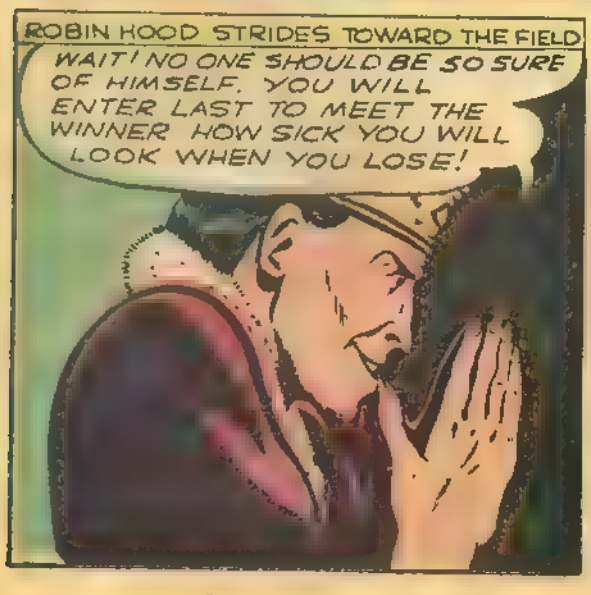
NO ONE APPROACHES ME. IS RICHARD HERE? IS MY SAFETY REALLY GUARANTEED? METHINKS I WILL SPEAK WITH JOHN - AND UNCOVER HIS HAND!

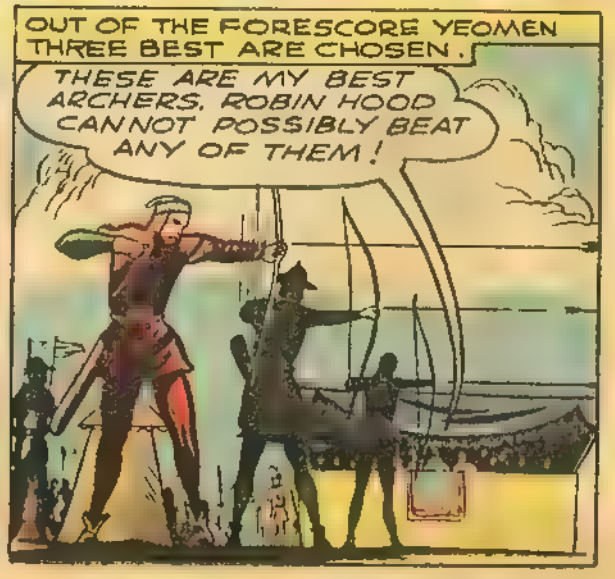

AS ROBIN NEARS JOHN'S BOX
AND NOW FOR SOME SPORT WITH ROBIN HOOD
YOU THERE IN GREEN! WHAT IS YOUR NAME? ARE YOU TOO TIMID TO SHOOT FOR THE PRIZE OF A SILVER BUGLE HORN!
I'M LOCKSLEY, YOUR GRACE. YOU HEARD OF ME AS ROBIN HOOD AND WOULD HAVE MY HIDE!

SO YOU ARE LOCKSLEY. MY BROTHER RICHARD PROMISED YOU SAFE CONDUCT, AND I PROMISED HIM I WOULD NOT MOLEST YOU!

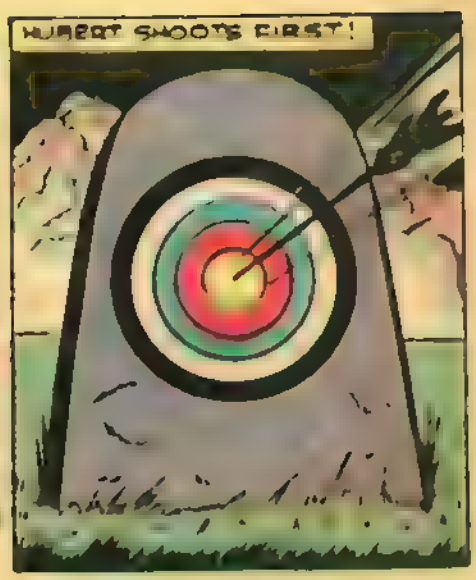
WHERE IS RICHARD?
AFTER THE CONTEST YOU WILL SEE HIM. FIRST, SHOOT!


IF I DO, I WILL SURELY WIN. WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
NAY. BUT YOU WILL NOT WIN ASSEMBLED HERE ARE THE BEST ARCHERS IN THE COUNTRY!


ROBIN HOOD STRIDES TOWARD THE FIELD
WAIT! NO ONE SHOULD BE SO SURE OF HIMSELF. YOU WILL ENTER LAST TO MEET THE WINNER HOW SICK YOU WILL LOOK WHEN YOU LOSE!


OUT OF THE FORESCORE YEOMEN THREE BEST ARE CHOSEN.
THESE ARE MY BEST ARCHERS. ROBIN HOOD CANNOT POSSIBLY BEAT ANY OF THEM!

AS HUBERT OF SUFFOLK OUT-SCORES THE OTHER TWO
NOW, SHOOT AGAINST THE WINNER. I COUNT ON YOU TO SHAME HIM, HUBERT.
I WON'T FAIL, YOUR MAJESTY

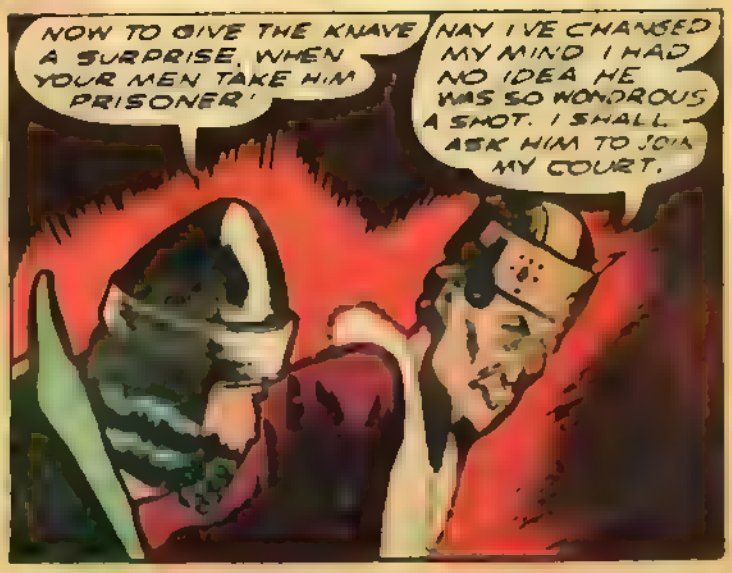

HUBERT SHOOTS FIRST!

YOU CANNOT BEAT THAT KNAVE
YOUR MEN OUGHT TO COME TO SHERWOOD FOREST

AND TRAIN BY SHOOTING DEER!

IS IT POSSIBLE?- HE AIMED ALMOST WITHOUT LOOKING! AND SPLIT THE OTHERS ARROW.!

YOU DID IT! NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH REMARKABLE SHOOTING. I SHALL RETURN TO THE BOX, COME FOR THE PRIZE!


NOW TO GIVE THE KNAVE A SURPRISE, WHEN YOUR MEN TAKE HIM PRISONER!
NAY I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. I HAD NO IDEA HE WAS SO WONDROUS A SHOT. I SHALL ASK HIM TO JOIN MY COURT.

HERE IS THE PRIZE. NOW COME WITH ME. A GOOD FRIEND AND ADMIRER SEEKS YOUR COMPANY!

HESITANT, ROBIN FOLLOWS JOHN INTO A TENT.
WHERE IS MY FRIEND?
I AM HE! A DANGEROUS OPPONENT CAN ALSO BE A STRONG FRIEND! AFTER WHAT I SAW OF YOUR SHOOTING TODAY I DESIRE A TRUCE!

WHY? DOES MY SHOOTING FRIGHTEN YOU?
NAY, IT FILLS ME WITH SUCH GREAT ADMIRATION THAT I WOULD ASK YOU TO ENTER MY SERVICE AND GRANT YOU FULL PARDON! NO LONGER SHALL YOU BE AN OUTLAW.

WHERE IS RICHARD THE LION HEARTED?
NEVER MIND WHERE HE IS. THIS CONCERNS YOU AND ME. ACCEPT MY OFFER!

WHEN RICHARD CAME TO THE THRONE, I PLEDGED MYSELF TO HIM. I CAN SERVE NO OTHER!
YOU FOOL!

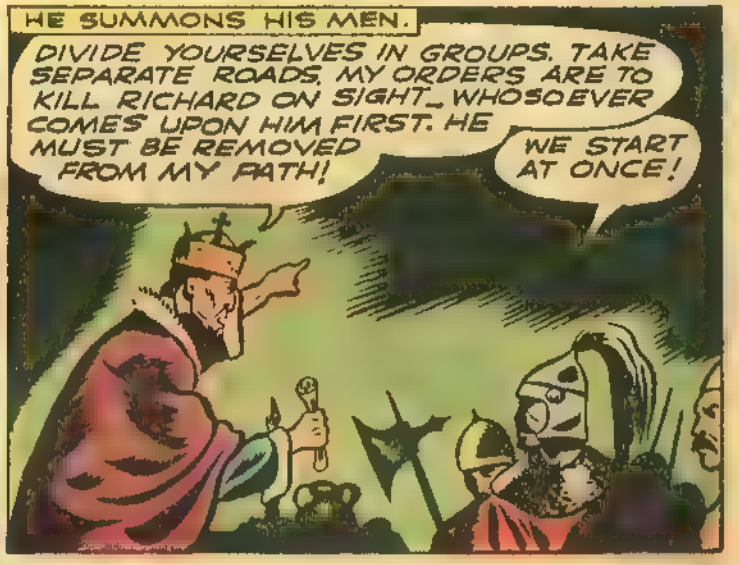
I HAD YOU COME HERE TO TRAP YOU, BUT I INSTEAD UNBENT TO YOU -- AND YET YOU REFUSE!
SO YOU DID TRICK ME INTO COMING HERE. IT WASN'T RICHARD AFTER ALL! WELL, I PREFER TO REMAIN A DANGEROUS ENEMY.

ROBIN HOOD RUNS TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE TENT BUT AS HE STEPS OUT HE IS SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS
DID YOU THINK MY MEN WOULD LET ME SPEAK UNGUARDED --- TO A DANGEROUS ENEMY? TAKE HIM AWAY!

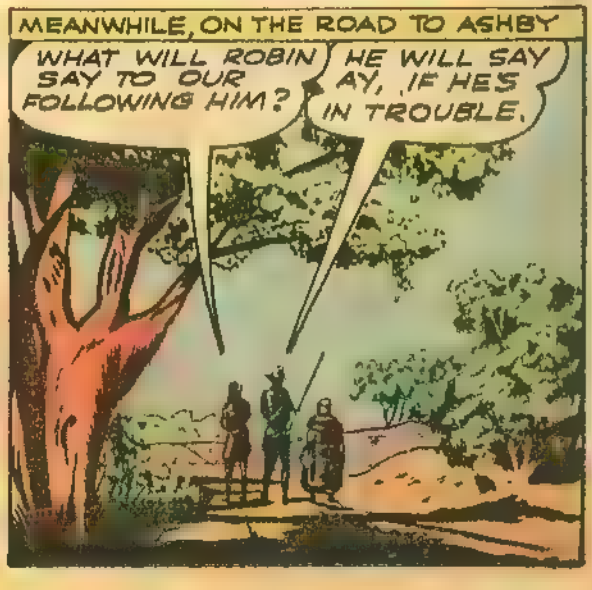
ROBIN HOOD IS THROWN INTO A DUNGEON UNDERNEATH THE ROYAL COURT.
YOU'VE ESCAPED DEATH SO MANY TIMES. WE'LL TAKE NO CHANCES NOW!

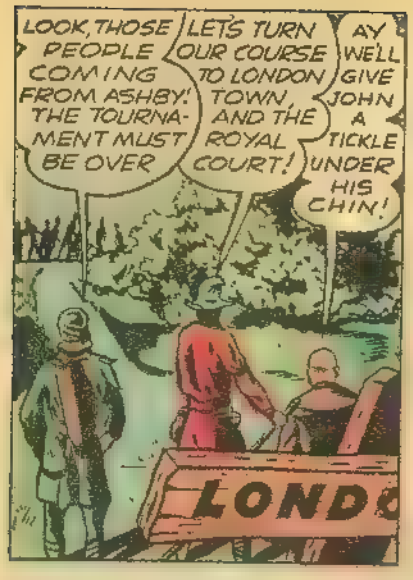
DID I NOT TELL YOU I WOULD GET HIM? TOMORROW AT SUNRISE HE WILL DIE, AND IT WON'T BE A SWEET DEATH!

A MOMENT LATER A NOTE ARRIVES...AND TURNS JOHN'S THOUGHTS TO ANOTHER CRIME.
TAKE HEED! RICHARD IS IN ENGLAND!


HE SUMMONS HIS MEN.
DIVIDE YOURSELVES IN GROUPS. TAKE SEPARATE ROADS. MY ORDERS ARE TO KILL RICHARD ON SIGHT_WHOSOEVER COMES UPON HIM FIRST. HE MUST BE REMOVED FROM MY PATH!
WE START AT ONCE!

WITH RICHARD OUT OF THE WAY, I SHALL HAVE THE CORONATION_AND BE DECLARED THE LEGAL KING!
WITH RICHARD AND ROBIN HOOD OUT OF YOUR WAY, YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE NO MORE!

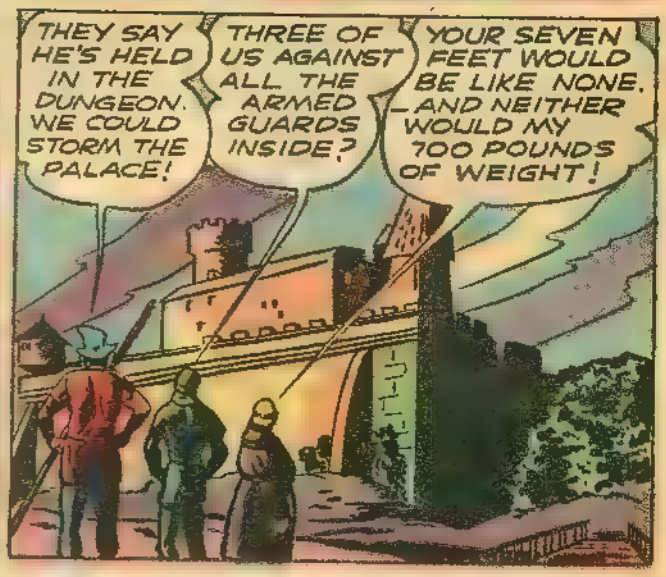

MEANWHILE, ON THE ROAD TO ASHBY
WHAT WILL ROBIN SAY TO OUR FOLLOWING HIM?
HE WILL SAY AY, IF HE'S IN TROUBLE.

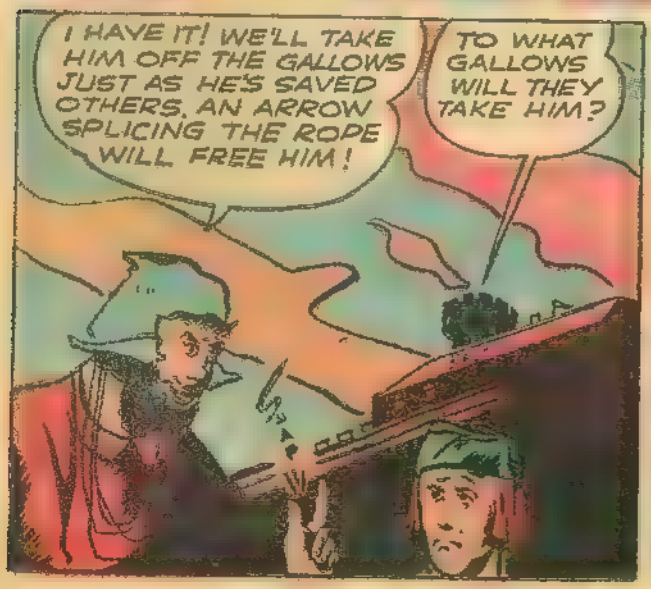

LOOK, THOSE PEOPLE COMING FROM ASHBY! THE TOURNAMENT MUST BE OVER
LET'S TURN OUR COURSE TO LONDON TOWN, AND THE ROYAL COURT!
AY WE'LL GIVE JOHN A TICKLE UNDER HIS CHIN!
LOND

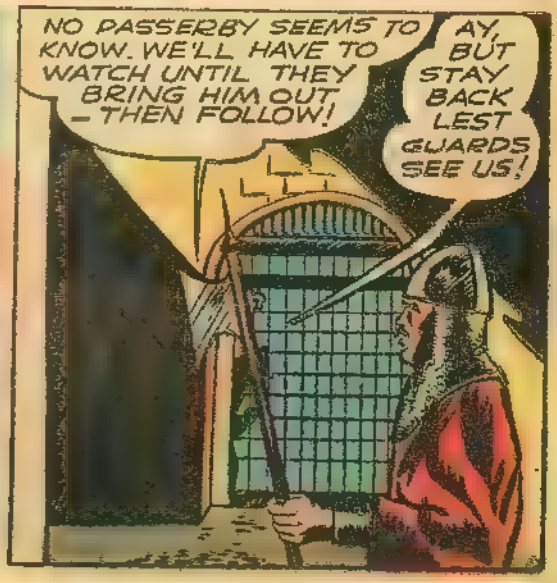
IN LONDON TOWN THINGS ARE STRANGLY QUIET.
WOULDN'T THE TOWN BE CELEBRATING RICHARD'S RETURN?
SWEET FRIEND, WE'RE STRANGERS HERE. IS THERE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE IN THIS FAIR TOWN?

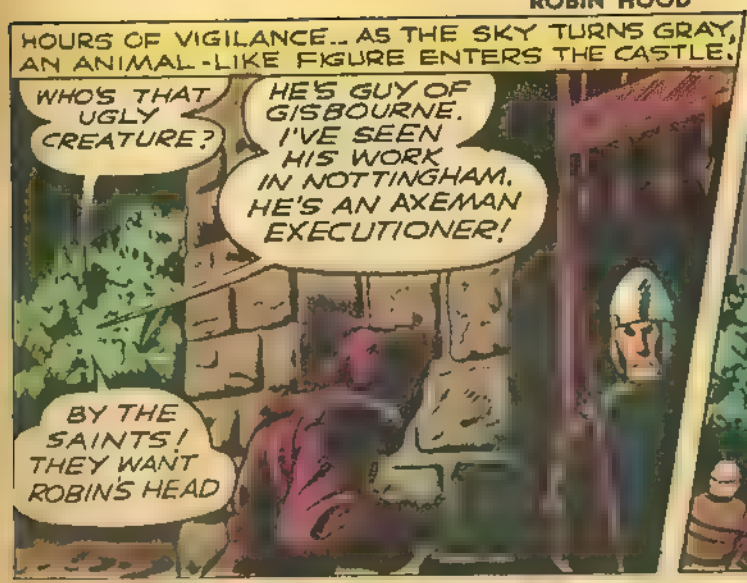
MAYBE AY - MAYBE NAY. ALL IN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT IT. IF YOU'RE A SILKEN DANDY, AY - BUT AN HONEST MAN WITH A LOAD ON HIS BACK WOULD WEEP THAT ROBIN'S TAKEN!

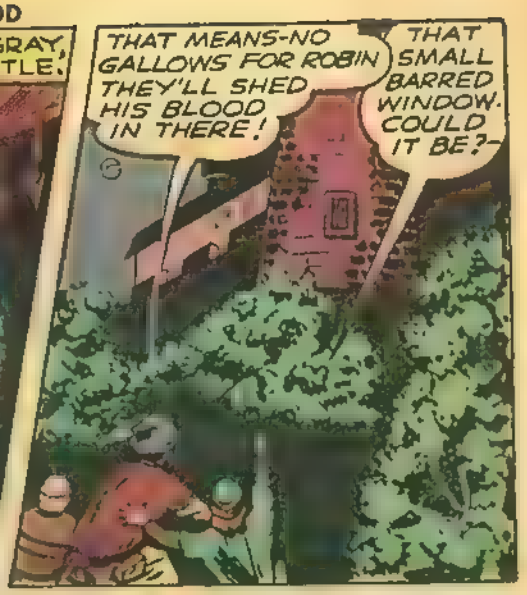
BY SAINT CHRISTOPHER, IF YOU LIE I'LL HAVE YOUR EARS!
ROBIN HOOD CAME AS BOLD AS CAN BE TO ASHBY, AND WENT OUT AS JOHN'S PRISONER. IT'S RUMORED HE DIES AT DAWN!


THEY SAY HE'S HELD IN THE DUNGEON. WE COULD STORM THE PALACE!
THREE OF US AGAINST ALL THE ARMED GUARDS INSIDE?
YOUR SEVEN FEET WOULD BE LIKE NONE. - AND NEITHER WOULD MY 700 POUNDS OF WEIGHT!


I HAVE IT! WE'LL TAKE HIM OFF THE GALLOWS JUST AS HE'S SAVED OTHERS. AN ARROW SPLICING THE ROPE WILL FREE HIM!
TO WHAT GALLOWS WILL THEY TAKE HIM?


NO PASSERBY SEEMS TO KNOW. WE'LL HAVE TO WATCH UNTIL THEY BRING HIM OUT - THEN FOLLOW!
AY, BUT STAY BACK LEST GUARDS SEE US!


HOURS OF VIGILANCE... AS THE SKY TURNS GRAY, AN ANIMAL-LIKE FIGURE ENTERS THE CASTLE.
WHO'S THAT UGLY CREATURE?
HE'S GUY OF GISBOURNE. I'VE SEEN HIS WORK IN NOTTINGHAM. HE'S AN AXEMAN EXECUTIONER!
BY THE SAINTS! THEY WANT ROBIN'S HEAD


THAT MEANS-NO GALLOWS FOR ROBIN THEY'LL SHED HIS BLOOD IN THERE!
THAT SMALL BARRED WINDOW. COULD IT BE?-

CAUTIOUSLY, LITTLE JOHN SIDLES TO THE WINDOW
ROBIN-
NAY, HE DOESN'T HEAR MY WHISPER.

THEN..
I HAVE IT!

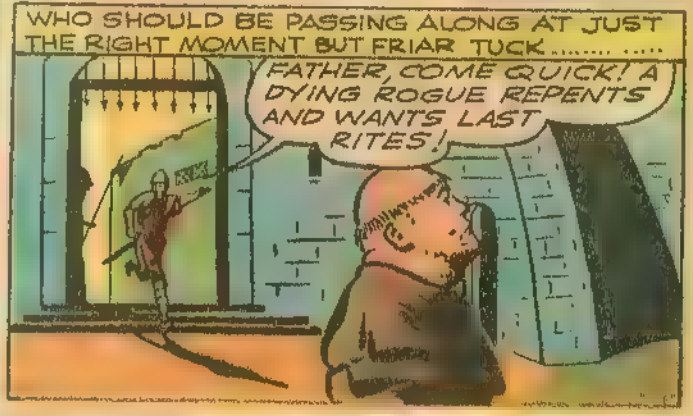
THIS BLACK STONE WILL SERVE AS PEN AND INK TO WRITE MY NOTE!

THEN, BREAKING OFF A BRANCH OF A NEARBY TREE..

DO NOT DIE WITHOUT A PRAYER?
OH-HO. NOW IT COMES TO ME!
DO NOT DIE WITHOUT A PRAYER

IN THE NICK OF TIME LITTLE JOHN PULLS THE STICK AND NOTE UP AGAIN-FOR THE KING STEPS IN WITH THE UGLY AXEMAN.
YOUR DAY IS OVER, ROGUE. NOTHING YOU CAN SAY WILL SAVE YOU..
WHY, HE WEEPS!
TAUNT ME NOT... :GULP: :GULP:....

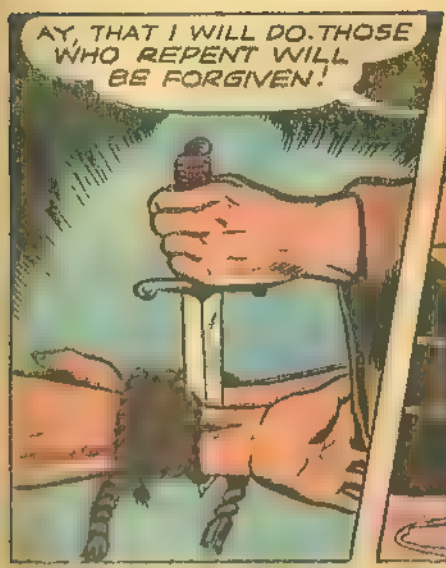
I WEEP FOR MY SINS- :GULP: IS THERE NO ONE TO SAY A PRAYER OVER ME?
SHALL WE FETCH A PRIEST?
YEA-QUICK! I WILL LOVE THE SIGHT OF ROBIN HOOD SNIVELLING


WHO SHOULD BE PASSING ALONG AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT BUT FRIAR TUCK.....
FATHER, COME QUICK! A DYING ROGUE REPENTS AND WANTS LAST RITES!

AT SIGHT OF HIS FRIAR, ROBIN HOOD HIDES HIS HEAD-AND BROADLY SMILES..

IS THIS ONE WHO IS BOUND WITH ROPES, THE MISGUIDED SOUL?
AY, A DESPERATE CHARACTER!

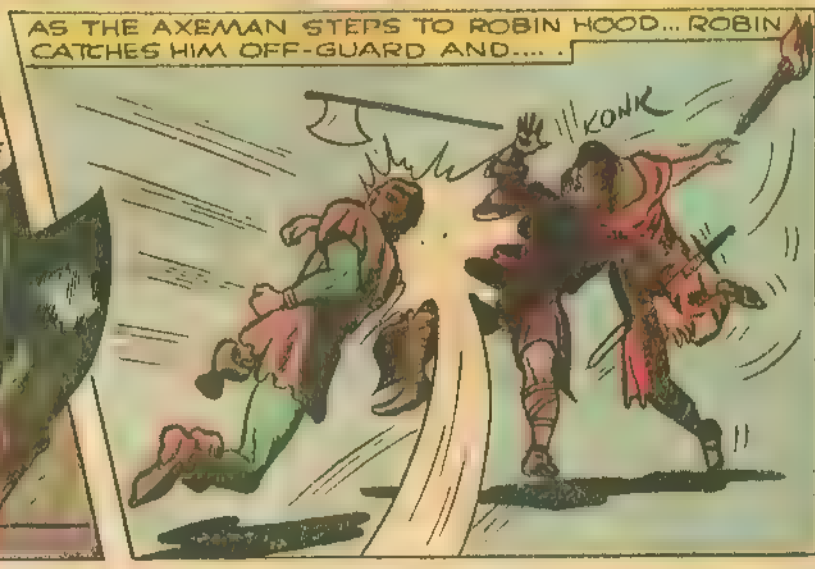
MISERABLE ONE, WHAT IS YOUR WISH?
RELEASE MY SPIRIT FROM SUFFERING!


AY, THAT I WILL DO. THOSE WHO REPENT WILL BE FORGIVEN!

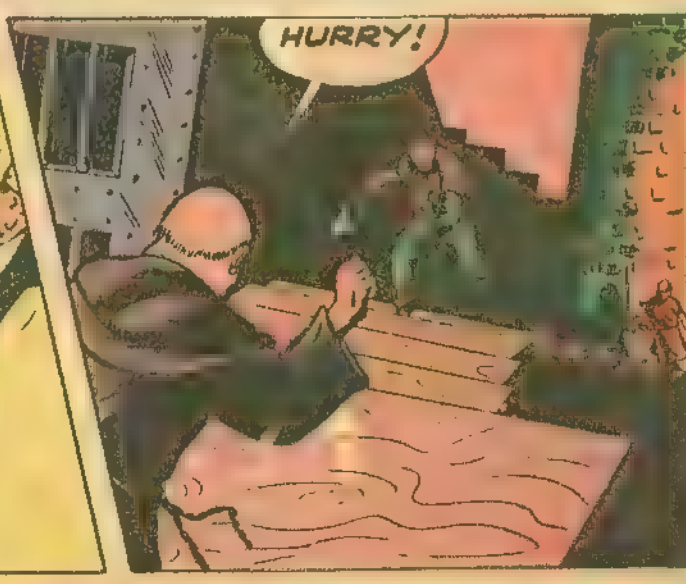
THOSE WHO RECOGNIZE THEIR GUILT WILL BE ABSOLVED
I ALREADY FEEL SOME RELEASE OF MY SOUL!

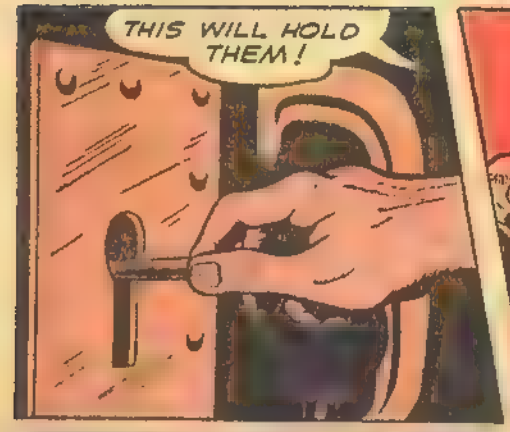
WITH THIS PRAYER YOU WILL RECEIVE ALL ABSOLUTION... HOC DEUS SPIRITIS

AND THE LAST OF THE ROPE IS CUT.
I HAVE MADE HIM READY!
NOW HE'S YOURS, GUY OF GISBOURNE


AS THE AXEMAN STEPS TO ROBIN HOOD... ROBIN CATCHES HIM OFF-GUARD AND.... .
KONK

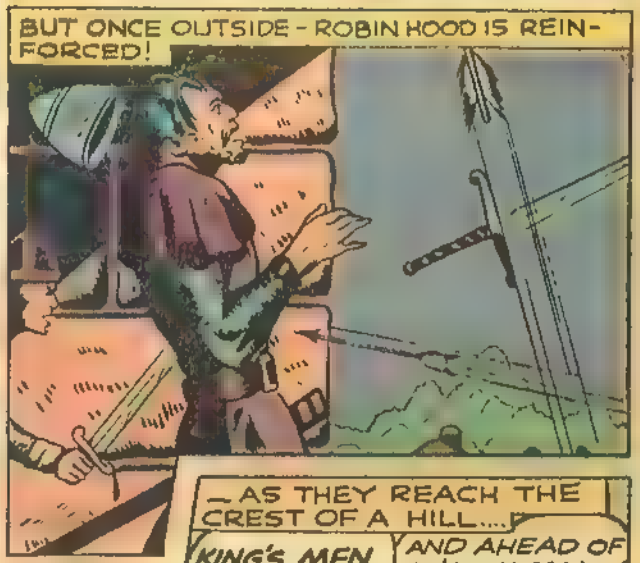
FRIAR TUCK DEALS WITH JOHN.

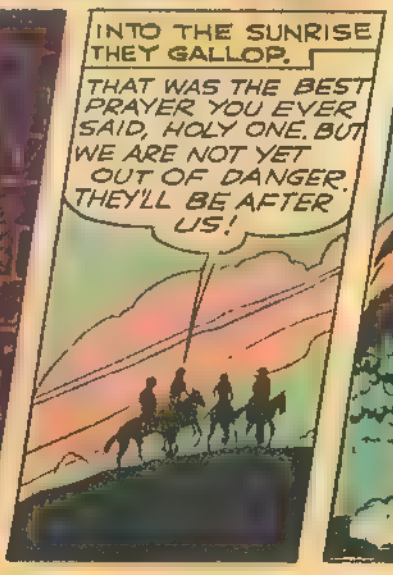

HURRY!

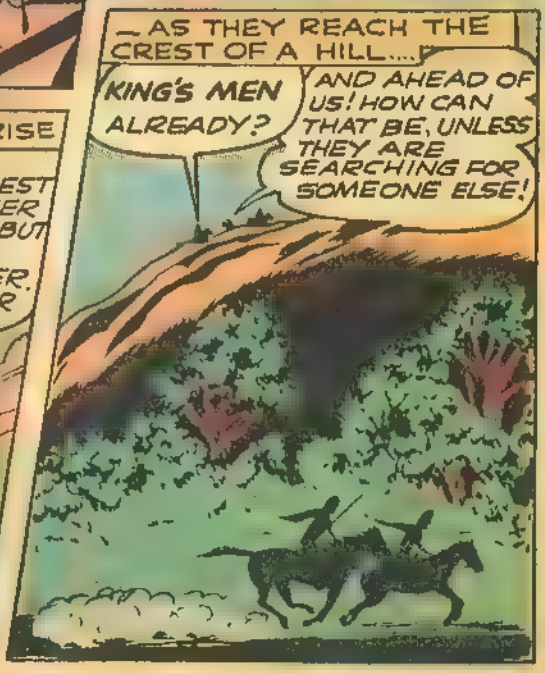

THIS WILL HOLD THEM!

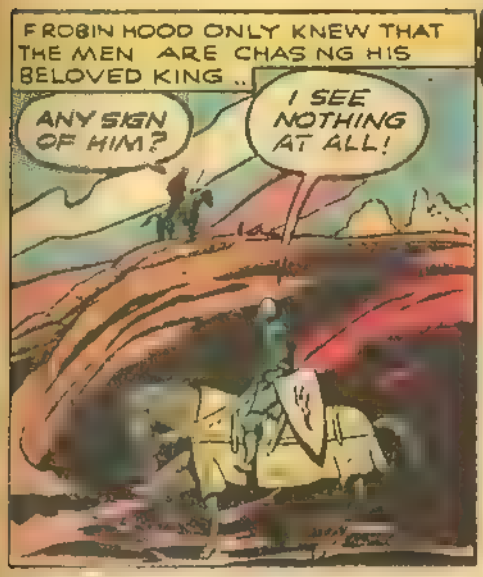
HALT!

STOP THEM!

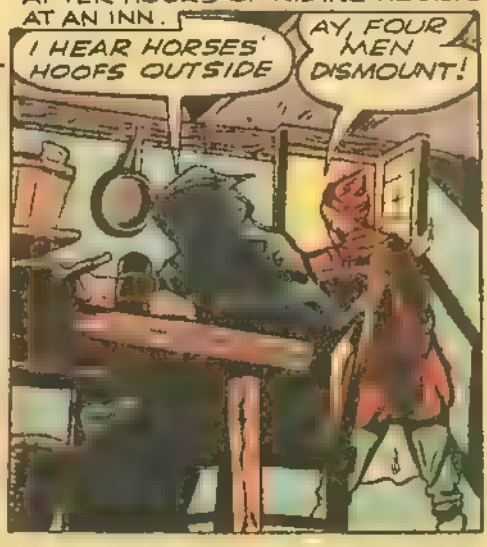

BUT ONCE OUTSIDE - ROBIN HOOD IS REINFORCED!

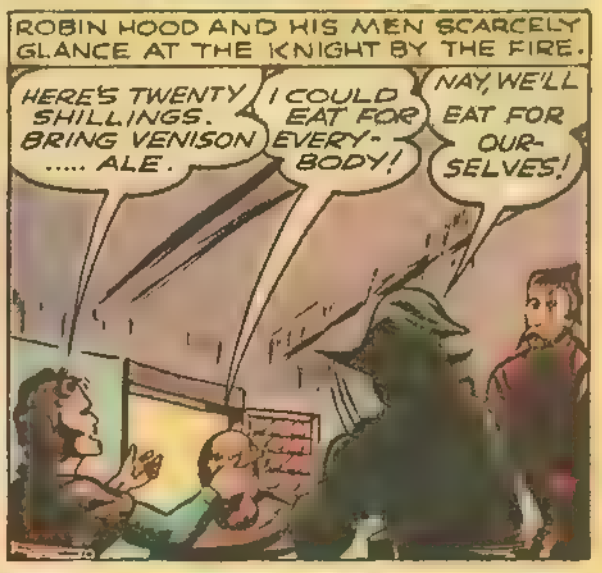

INTO THE SUNRISE THEY GALLOP.
THAT WAS THE BEST PRAYER YOU EVER SAID, HOLY ONE. BUT WE ARE NOT YET OUT OF DANGER. THEY'LL BE AFTER US!

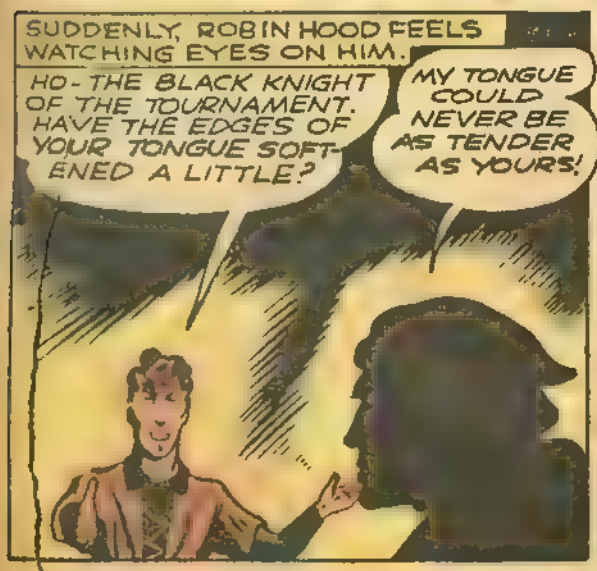

—AS THEY REACH THE CREST OF A HILL....
KING'S MEN ALREADY?
AND AHEAD OF US! HOW CAN THAT BE, UNLESS THEY ARE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE!

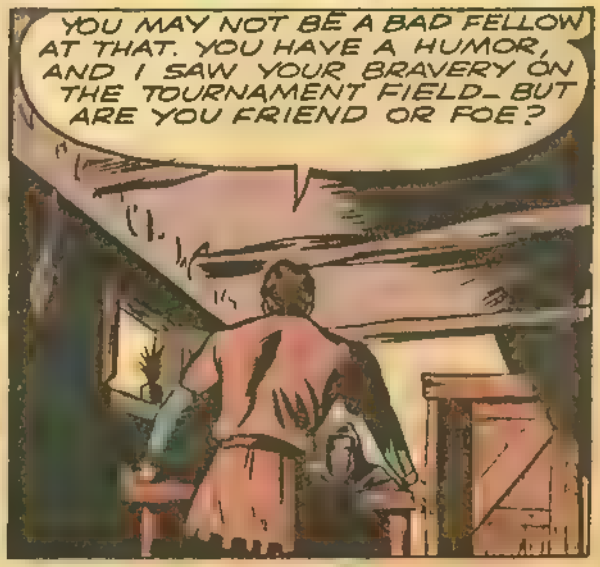


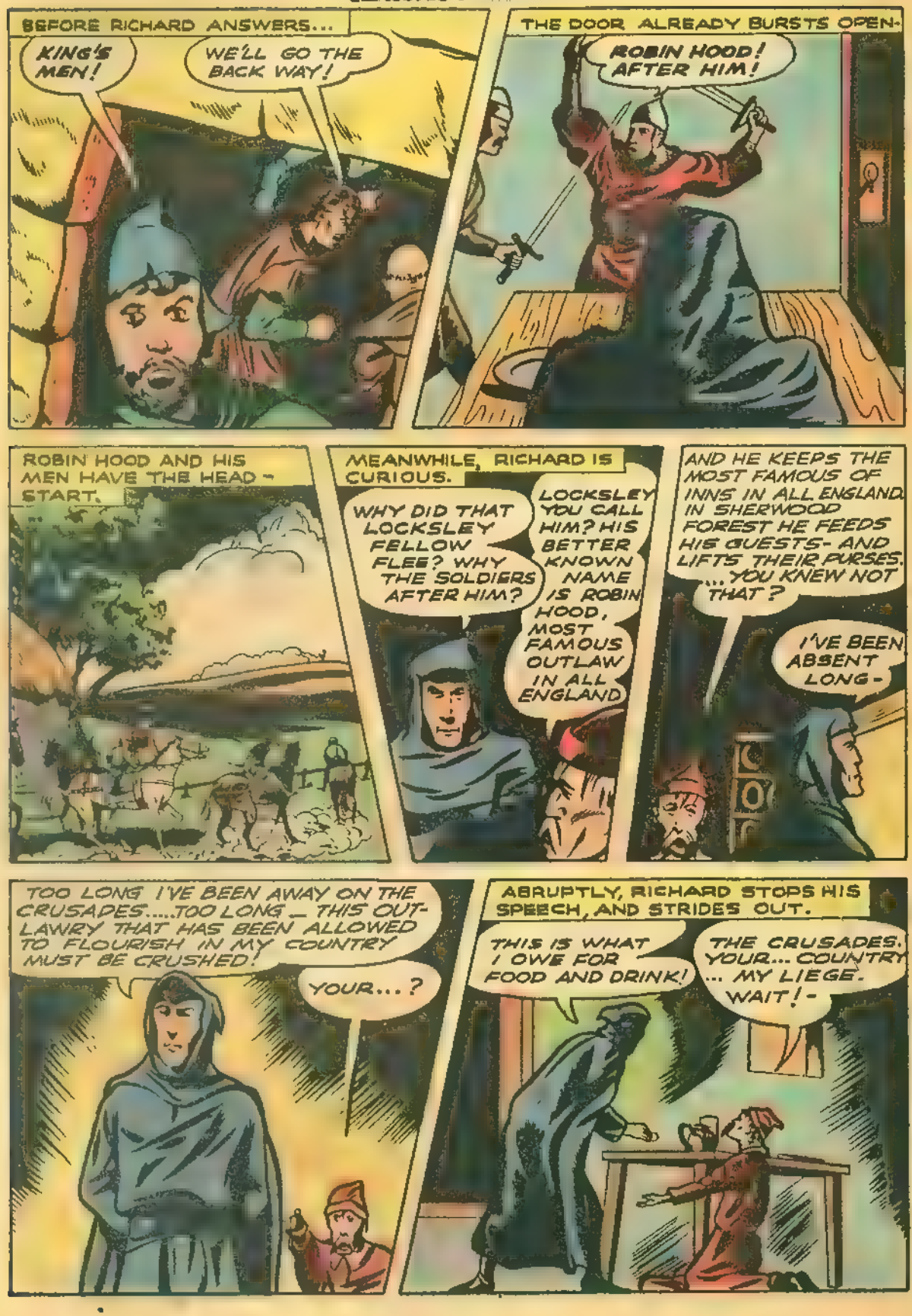

SO FAR RICHARD S SAFE LEAV NG THE TOURNAMENT, HE KEPT ON RIDING - NOT YET CONV NCED THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO REVEAL HIMSELF. BY A TRICK OF FATE HE HAS NOT ENCOUNTERED ANY KING'S MEN WHO MIGHT QUESTION HIS DISGUISE





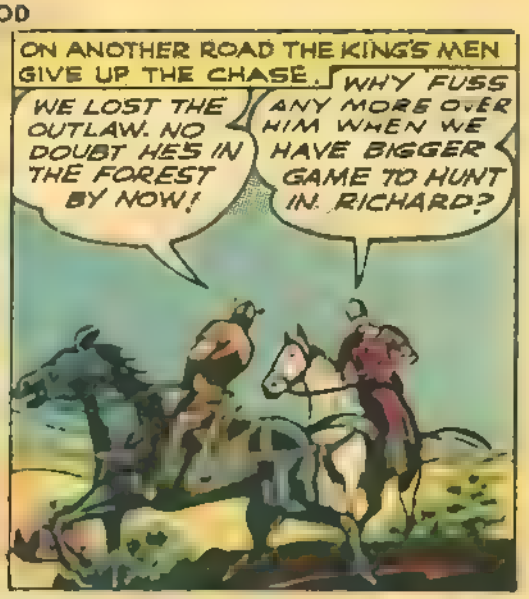




BEFORE RICHARD ANSWERS...
KING'S MEN!
WE'LL GO THE BACK WAY!
THE DOOR ALREADY BURSTS OPEN-
ROBIN HOOD! AFTER HIM!
ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN HAVE THE HEAD-START.
MEANWHILE, RICHARD IS CURIOUS.
WHY DID THAT LOCKSLEY FELLOW FLEE? WHY THE SOLDIERS AFTER HIM?
LOCKSLEY YOU CALL HIM? HIS BETTER KNOWN NAME IS ROBIN HOOD, MOST FAMOUS OUTLAW IN ALL ENGLAND
AND HE KEEPS THE MOST FAMOUS OF INNS IN ALL ENGLAND. IN SHERWOOD FOREST HE FEEDS HIS GUESTS- AND LIFTS THEIR PURSES. ...YOU KNEW NOT THAT?
I'VE BEEN ABSENT LONG-
TOO LONG I'VE BEEN AWAY ON THE CRUSADES....TOO LONG — THIS OUTLAWRY THAT HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO FLOURISH IN MY COUNTRY MUST BE CRUSHED!
YOUR...?
ABRUPTLY, RICHARD STOPS HIS SPEECH, AND STRIDES OUT.
THIS IS WHAT I OWE FOR FOOD AND DRINK!
THE CRUSADES. YOUR... COUNTRY ... MY LIEGE. WAIT!-

IN MY TEMPER I SAID TOO MUCH, BUT PERCHANCE IT IS TIME TO REVEAL MYSELF.... THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS LAND CALLED MERRY ENGLAND!

FIRST I'D LIKE TO VENTURE INTO SHERWOOD FOREST FOR A FEAST- IF THE OUTLAW HAS NOT BEEN CAPTURED YET

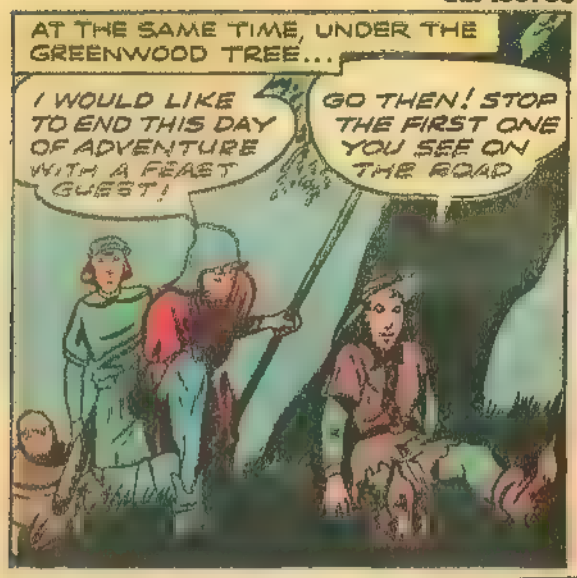

ON ANOTHER ROAD THE KING'S MEN GIVE UP THE CHASE.
WE LOST THE OUTLAW. NO DOUBT HE'S IN THE FOREST BY NOW!
WHY FUSS ANY MORE OVER HIM WHEN WE HAVE BIGGER GAME TO HUNT IN, RICHARD?

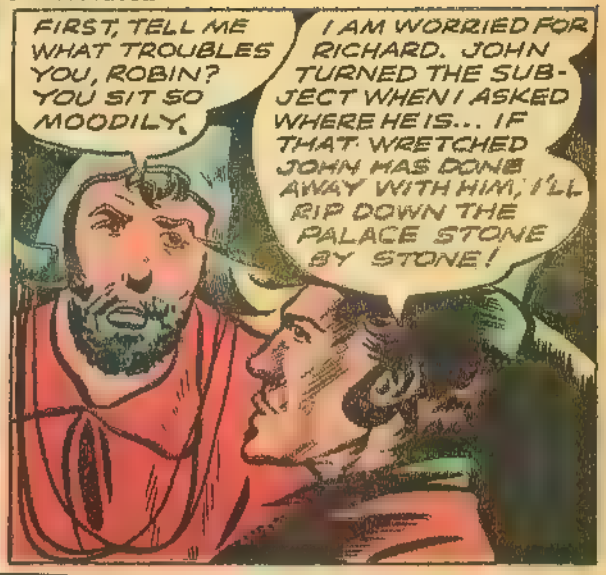
LET US GO. IN THIS TIME PERCHANCE TO EAT

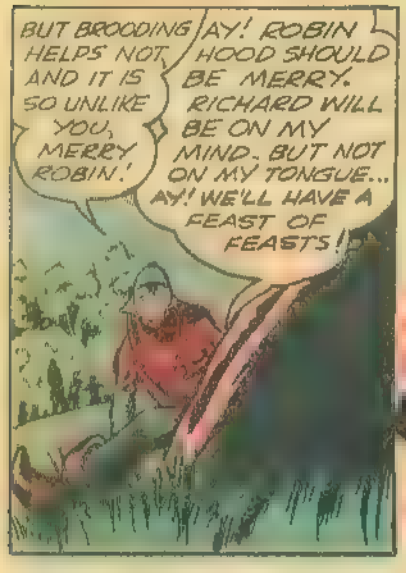
FOOL! YOU NEARLY SPILLED THE FOOD ON ME!
A THOUSAND PARDONS MY HAND STILL TREMBLES WITH EXCITEMENT. KING RICHARD WAS HERE IN THE GUISE OF A KNIGHT IN BLACK!

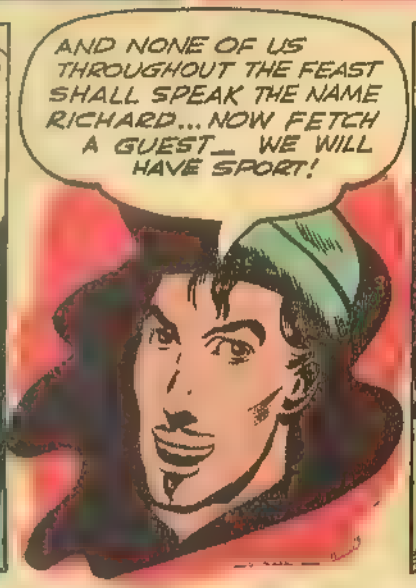
RICHARD? ARE YOU SURE?
WHEN WAS HE HERE? AND WHERE WAS HE HEADED
FROM THE CRUSADES.

IF RICHARD IS IN SHERWOOD FOREST, HOW CAN WE KILL HIM? THE FOREST IS TOO THICK WITH ROBIN HOOD
WE WILL GET THE OTHER KING'S MEN AND THE SHERIFF'S MEN TO JOIN WITH US — THIS TIME WE MUST STRIKE THE BLOW... THINK HOW JOHN WILL REWARD US!

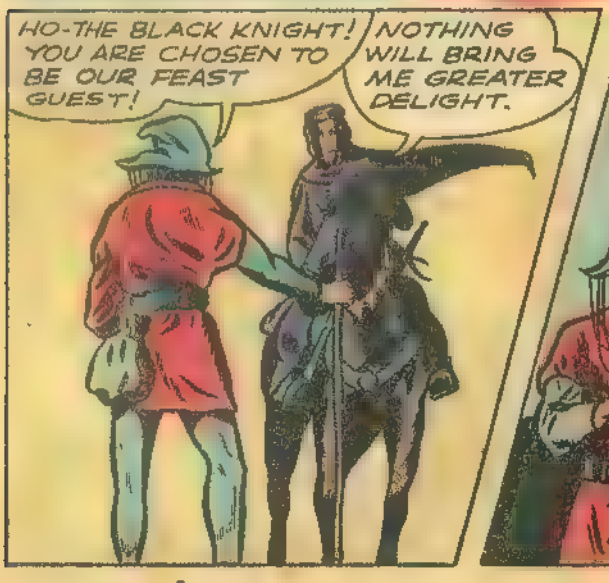

AT THE SAME TIME, UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE...
I WOULD LIKE TO END THIS DAY OF ADVENTURE WITH A FEAST GUEST!
GO THEN! STOP THE FIRST ONE YOU SEE ON THE ROAD

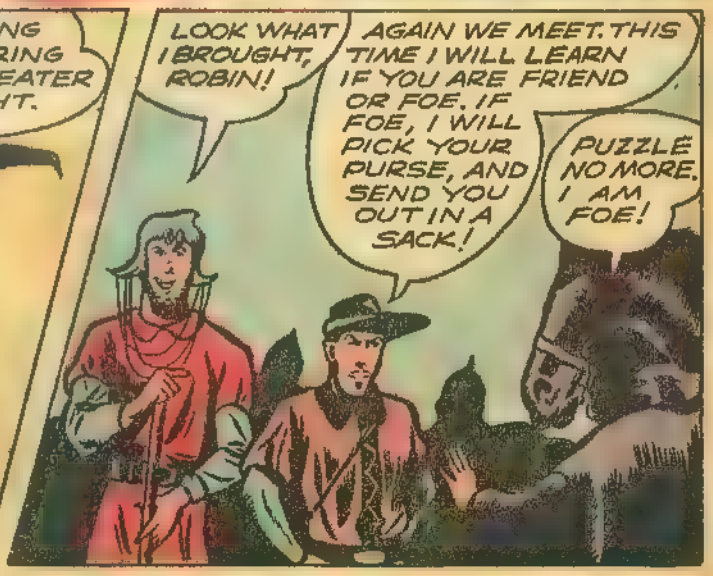

FIRST, TELL ME WHAT TROUBLES YOU, ROBIN? YOU SIT SO MOODILY.
I AM WORRIED FOR RICHARD. JOHN TURNED THE SUBJECT WHEN I ASKED WHERE HE IS... IF THAT WRETCHED JOHN HAS DONE AWAY WITH HIM, I'LL RIP DOWN THE PALACE STONE BY STONE!


BUT BROODING HELPS NOT, AND IT IS SO UNLIKE YOU, MERRY ROBIN!
AY! ROBIN HOOD SHOULD BE MERRY. RICHARD WILL BE ON MY MIND, BUT NOT ON MY TONGUE... AY! WE'LL HAVE A FEAST OF FEASTS!

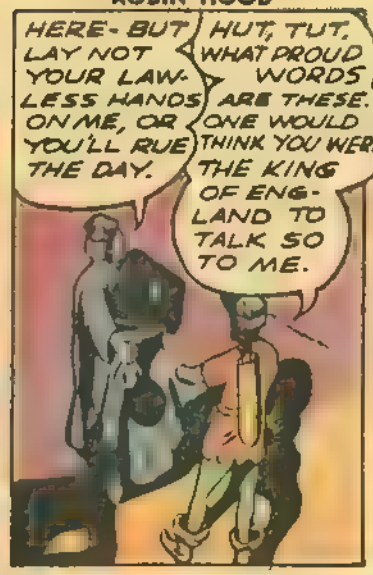

AND NONE OF US THROUGHOUT THE FEAST SHALL SPEAK THE NAME RICHARD... NOW FETCH A GUEST— WE WILL HAVE SPORT!

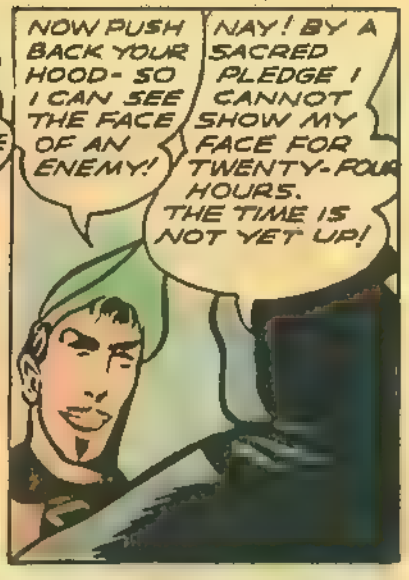
I'M TO STOP THE FIRST MAN I SEE, AND HERE HE COMES.


HO-THE BLACK KNIGHT! YOU ARE CHOSEN TO BE OUR FEAST GUEST!
NOTHING WILL BRING ME GREATER DELIGHT.


LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT, ROBIN!
AGAIN WE MEET. THIS TIME I WILL LEARN IF YOU ARE FRIEND OR FOE. IF FOE, I WILL PICK YOUR PURSE, AND SEND YOU OUT IN A SACK!
PUZZLE NO MORE. I AM FOE!

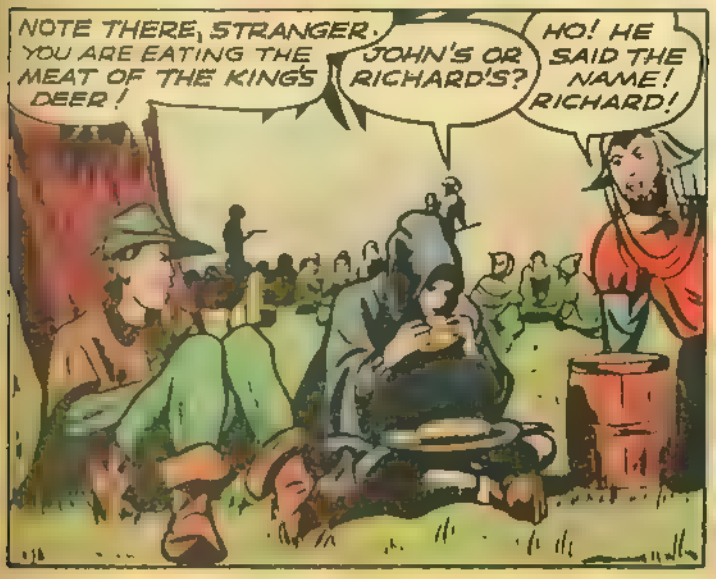
I AM YOUR SWORN FOE! I DECRY LAWLESSNESS AND OUTLAWRY! YOU BESMIRCH THE FAIR NAME OF ENGLAND!
THEN HAND OVER YOUR PURSE!

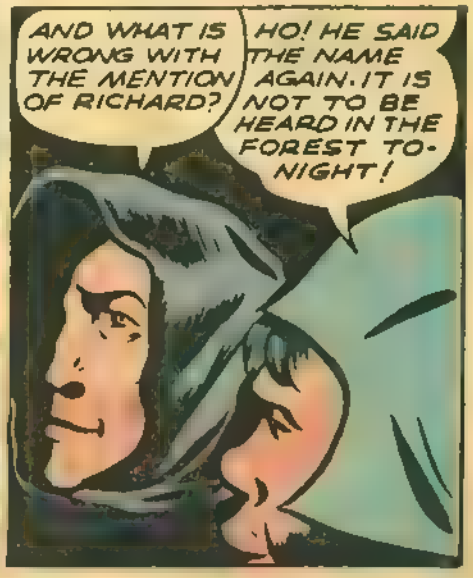

HERE- BUT LAY NOT YOUR LAWLESS HANDS ON ME, OR YOU'LL RUE THE DAY.
HUT, TUT, WHAT PROUD WORDS ARE THESE. ONE WOULD THINK YOU WERE THE KING OF ENGLAND TO TALK SO TO ME.

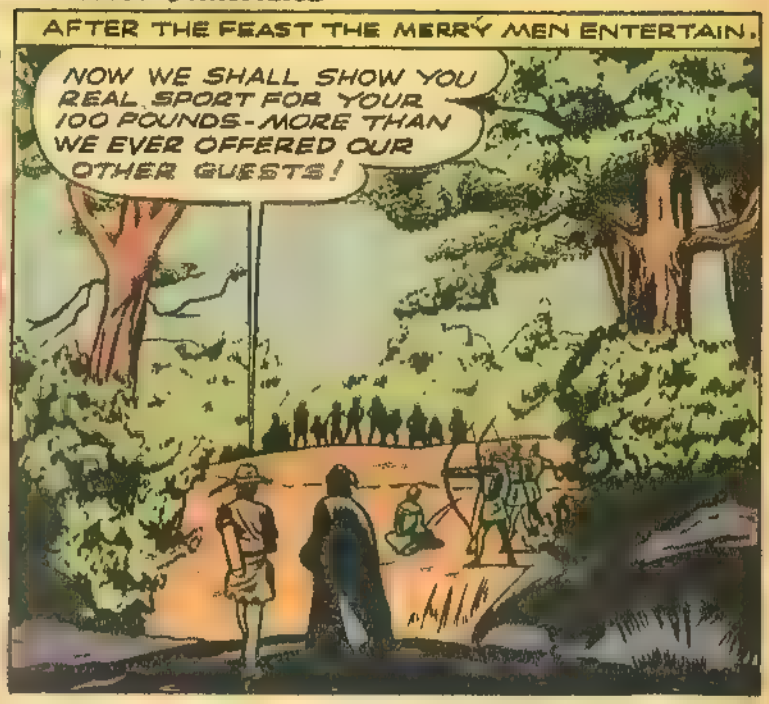

NOW PUSH BACK YOUR HOOD- SO I CAN SEE THE FACE OF AN ENEMY!
NAY! BY A SACRED PLEDGE I CANNOT SHOW MY FACE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. THE TIME IS NOT YET UP!

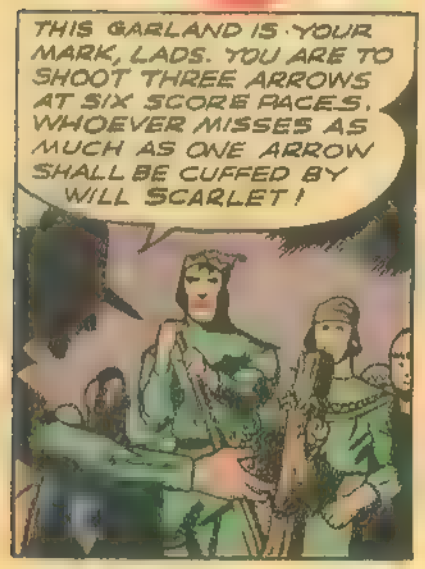
THEN KEEP CONCEALED... BUT PARTAKE FOR YOU ARE PAYING WELL FOR THE FEAST, YOUR PURSE HOLDS 100 POUNDS.
IS THAT WHAT YOU OUTLAWS CALL A CODE OF HONOR?

AY, I MUST EAT SOME OF MY MONEY'S WORTH- BUT I'LL TURN MY HEAD TO KEEP MY VOW!

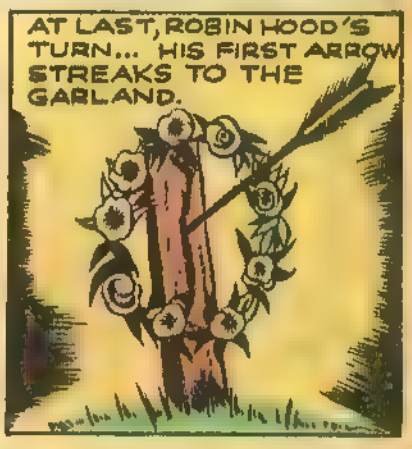

NOTE THERE, STRANGER. YOU ARE EATING THE MEAT OF THE KING'S DEER!
JOHN'S OR RICHARD'S?
HO! HE SAID THE NAME! RICHARD!

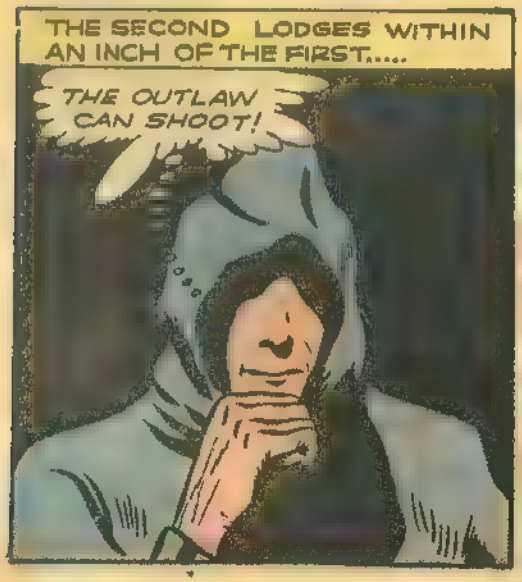

AND WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE MENTION OF RICHARD?
HO! HE SAID THE NAME AGAIN. IT IS NOT TO BE HEARD IN THE FOREST TONIGHT!

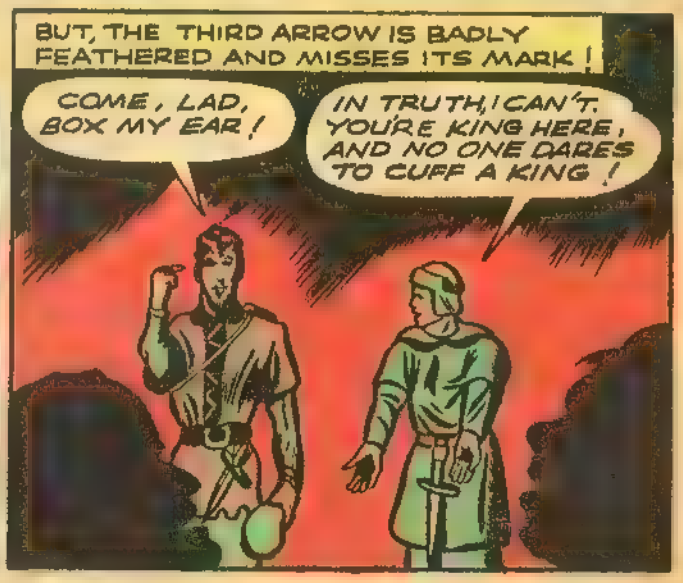


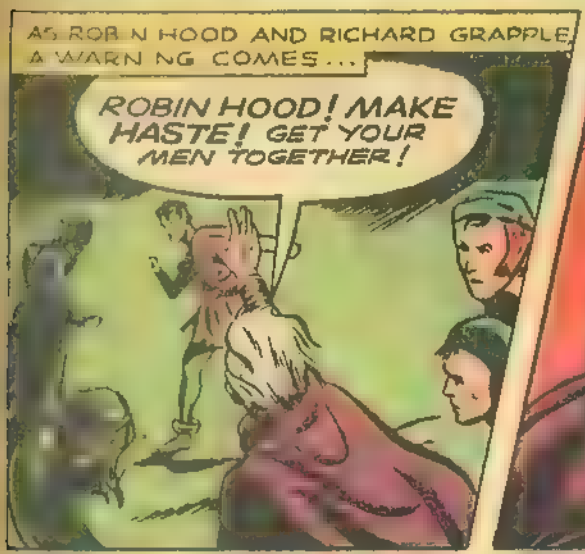



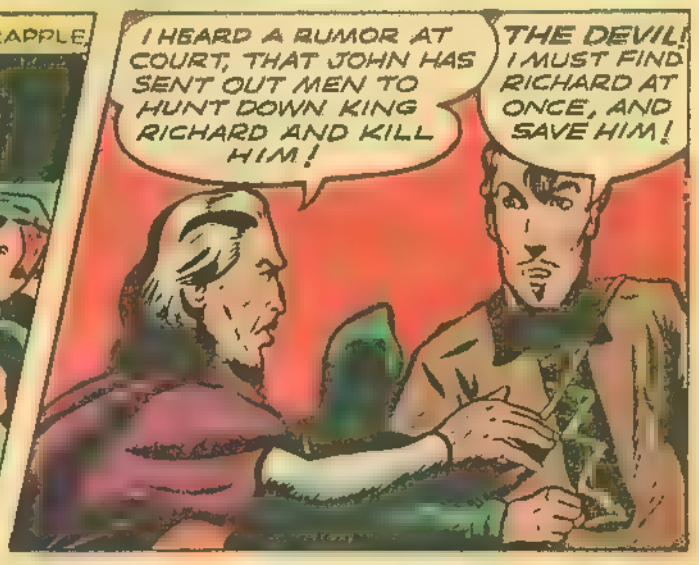

THE SHOOTING BEGINS. EVER SO OFTEN AN ARCHER MISSES AND GETS A BUFFETING, WHILE HIS COMPANIONS HOWL THEIR AMUSEMENT... EVEN RICHARD GUFFAWS, THOUGH HE BELIEVES HE IS IN THE LAIR OF ROGUES



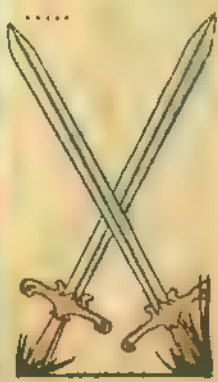



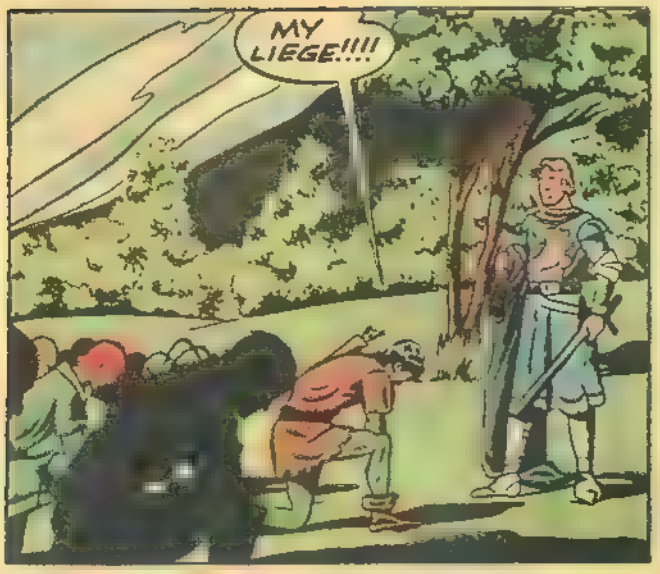



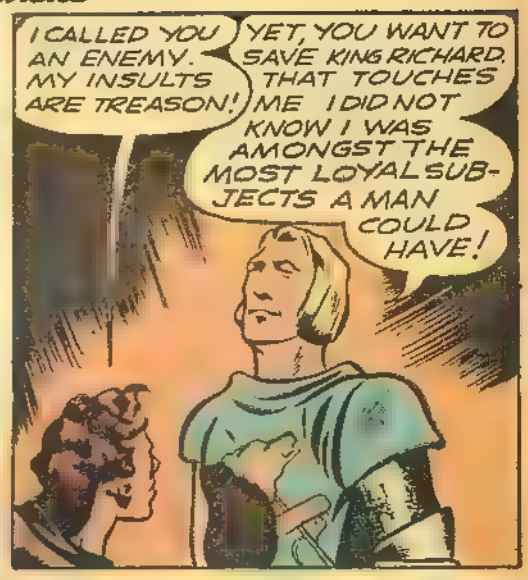


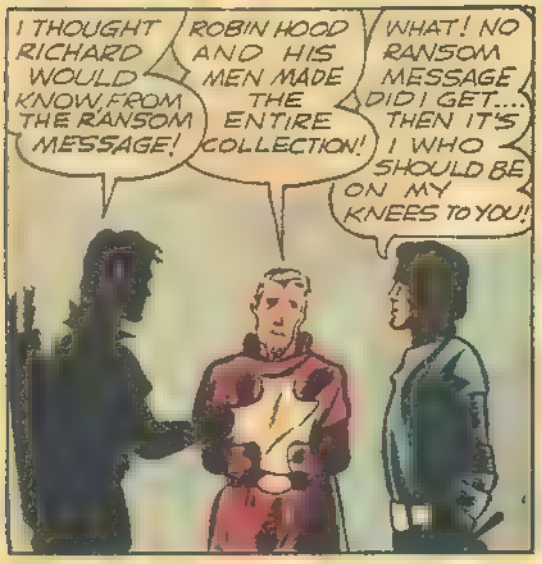



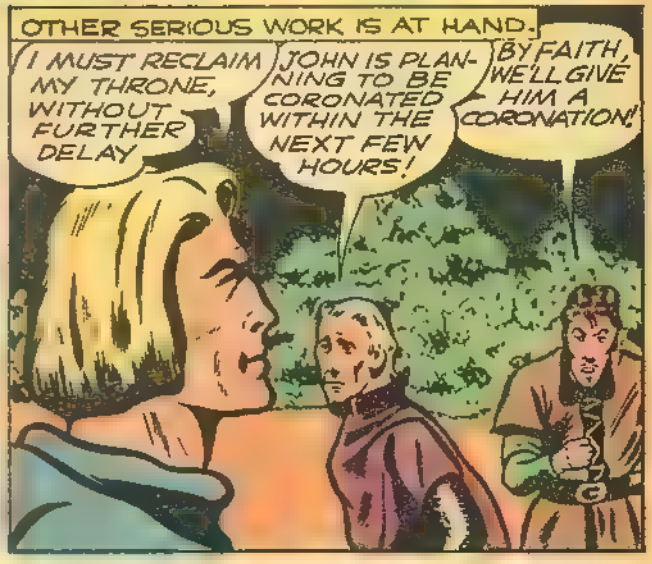
ROBIN HOOD WHIRLS AROUND, BEGINS TO SPEAK, BUT HIS VOICE TRAILS OFF .....

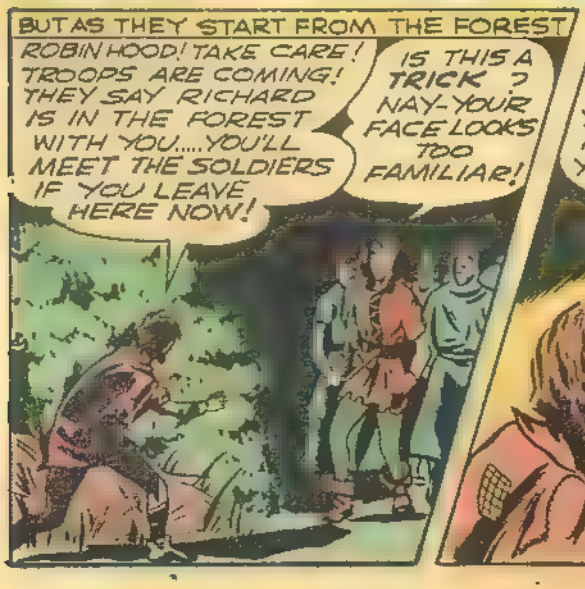



MY LIEGE!!!!


I CALLED YOU AN ENEMY. MY INSULTS ARE TREASON!
YET, YOU WANT TO SAVE KING RICHARD. THAT TOUCHES ME I DID NOT KNOW I WAS AMONGST THE MOST LOYAL SUBJECTS A MAN COULD HAVE!


I THOUGHT RICHARD WOULD KNOW FROM THE RANSOM MESSAGE!
ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN MADE THE ENTIRE COLLECTION!
WHAT! NO RANSOM MESSAGE DID I GET.... THEN IT'S I WHO SHOULD BE ON MY KNEES TO YOU!

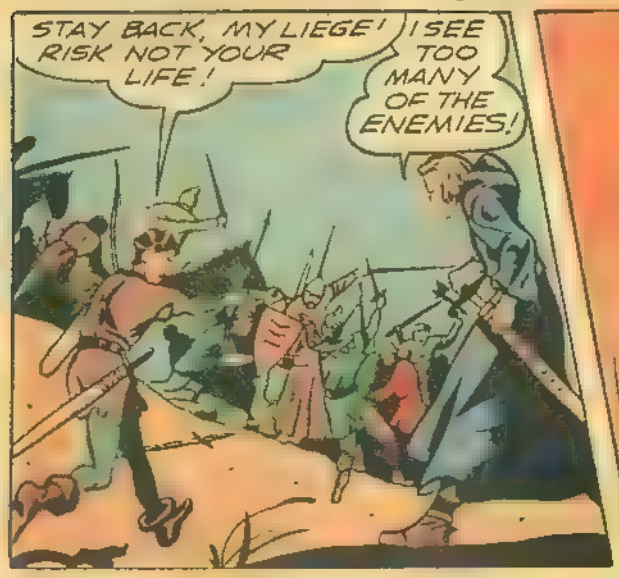

OTHER SERIOUS WORK IS AT HAND.
I MUST RECLAIM MY THRONE, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY
JOHN IS PLANNING TO BE CORONATED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW HOURS!
BY FAITH, WE'LL GIVE HIM A CORONATION!

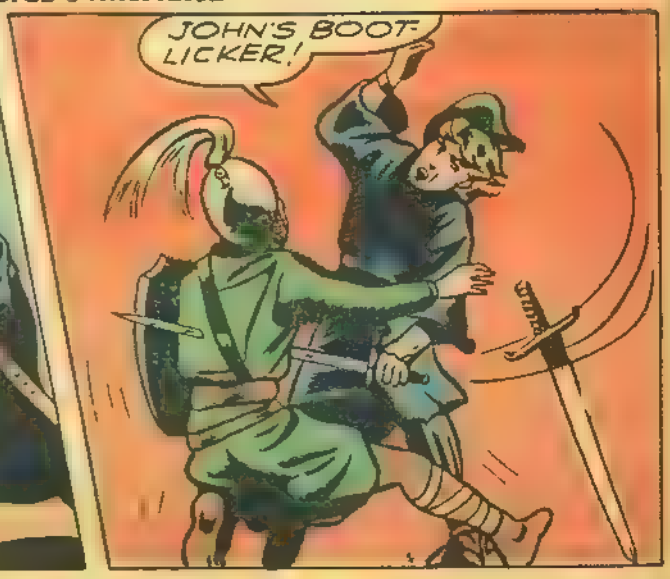

BUT AS THEY START FROM THE FOREST
ROBIN HOOD! TAKE CARE! TROOPS ARE COMING! THEY SAY RICHARD IS IN THE FOREST WITH YOU.... YOU'LL MEET THE SOLDIERS IF YOU LEAVE HERE NOW!
IS THIS A TRICK ? NAY-YOUR FACE LOOKS TOO FAMILIAR!

IT WAS SAVING MY LIFE THAT OUTLAWED YOU. I WOULD NOT TELL YOU WRONG!
AY, FRIEND. WE WILL STAY IN THE FOREST. WE WILL FIGHT ON OUR OWN GROUND!

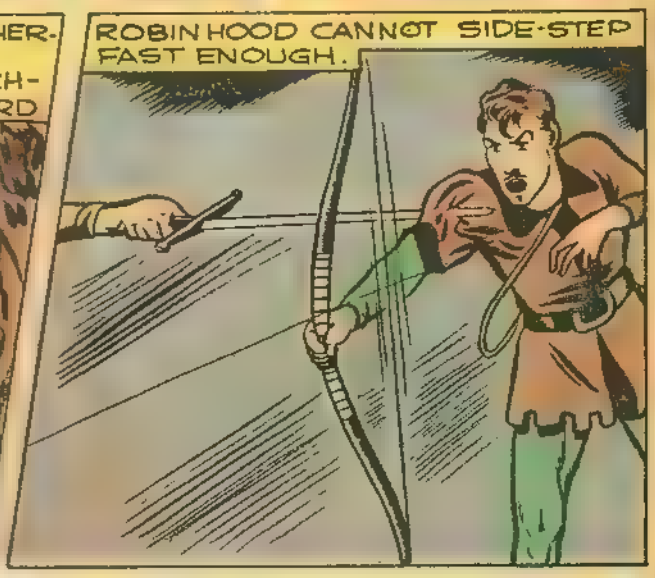
THERE ARE MORE OF THEM THAN US, BUT WE MAY OUT-WIT THEM. ONCE BEFORE MANY TROOPS RODE IN AND WE JUMPED ON OUR ENEMIES FROM THE TREES... HMM....

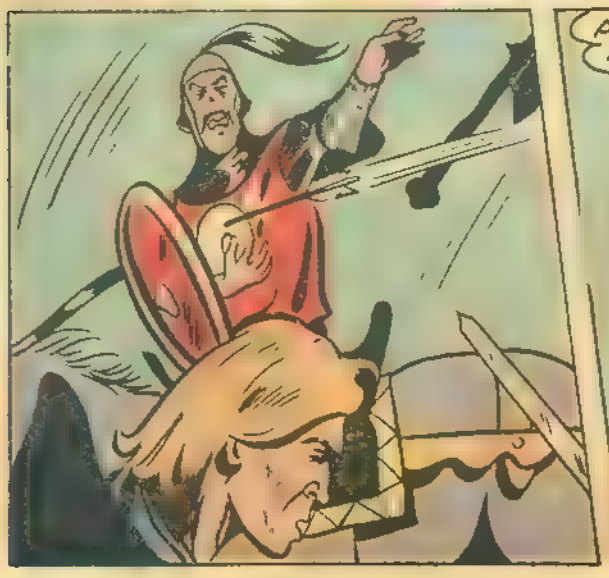
THESE PIECES OF CLOTH WILL SURPRISE THEM!
THIS TIME WHEN THE ATTACKERS ENTER THEY LOOK ABOUT GUARDEDLY, CAUTIOUSLY.
LOOK! THEY'RE UP THERE!
THEY THINK TO LEAP ON US AGAIN!
WE'LL CHARGE FIRST!
ROGUE! I HAVE YOU!
DIE!
THEY FENCE WITH GHOSTS AND BREAK THEIR BLADES.
WAIT! FIGHT NO MORE! LOOK!
YOU'VE CUT INTO ONE OF THE ROGUES!
NAY, I FELT NOTHING WHEN I THRUST! WE'VE BEEN FOOLED. THERE IS NO ONE IN THESE TREES!
LOOK!
BROKEN BLADES ARE ABANDONED AS SOLDIERS FLEE
COWARDS! THEY CAN ONLY FIGHT WITH SPEARS! -HO- BUT OTHERS COME!

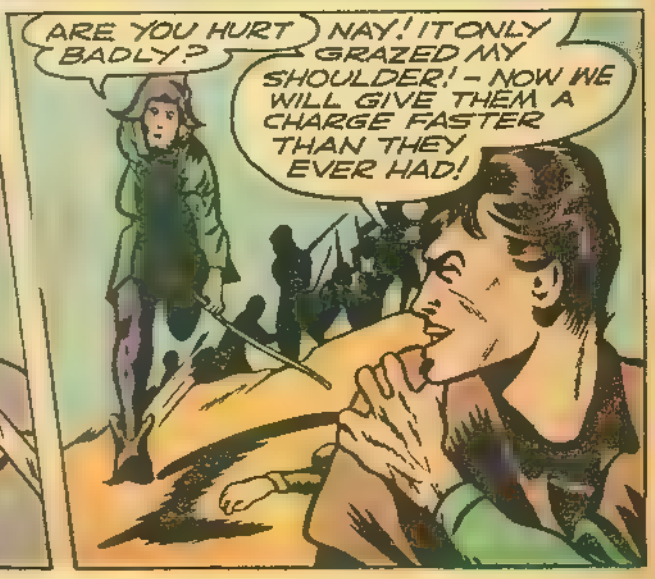

STAY BACK, MY LIEGE! RISK NOT YOUR LIFE!
I SEE TOO MANY OF THE ENEMIES!


JOHN'S BOOT-LICKER!

NEW FOES SET ON RICHARD PANTHER-QUICK, ROBIN HOOD AIMS AN ARROW, UNAWARE OF AN APPROACHING SWORD


ROBIN HOOD CANNOT SIDE-STEP FAST ENOUGH.

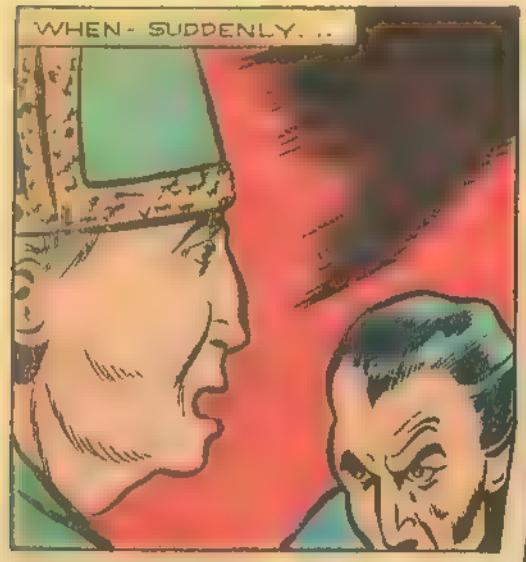


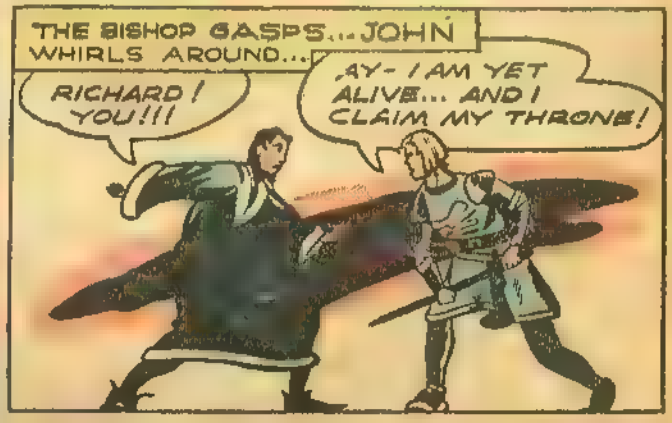

ARE YOU HURT BADLY?
NAY! IT ONLY GRAZED MY SHOULDER! – NOW WE WILL GIVE THEM A CHARGE FASTER THAN THEY EVER HAD!

A TORNADO OF ARROWS! – THE REMAINING ATTACKERS, CONFUSED AND WEARY, SURRENDER.
DID YOU THINK TO UNSEAT ME FROM MY THRONE-WHEN I HAVE SUCH FOLLOWERS AS ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MEN
JOHN URGED US ON!
IF YOU CAN BE SO TEMPTED, I CANNOT TRUST YOU. I BANISH YOU FROM ENGLAND FOR-EVER.
HOW FIRMLY I SPEAK WHEN I HAVE NOT YET DEALT WITH JOHN AND HIS CORONATION. WE MUST START FOR LONDON TOWN!
AY, MY LORD, I WILL ENJOY THAT.
IN FRONT OF THE PALACE A CROWD HAS GATHERED.
IS THIS THE WAY TO AWAIT THE CORONATION OF THE KING? SO UNHAPPY LOOKING!
HE IS NOT THE KING WE WANT, ALAS!
SUDDENLY, RICHARD DOFFS HIS HOOD – AND THE THRONG JOYOUSLY RECOGNIZE THEIR RIGHT-FUL KING.
RICHARD!
RICHARD!
IT'S RICHARD! OUR KING! GOD SAVE THE KING!
JOHN ARRIVES, UNAWARE THAT RICHARD HAS JOINED HIS PROCESSION.
HA – THE PEOPLE WELCOME ME!
THE CROWD GETS A NEW THRILL AS OUTLAW JOINS KING!
WHEN JOHN FINDS OUT... HA!

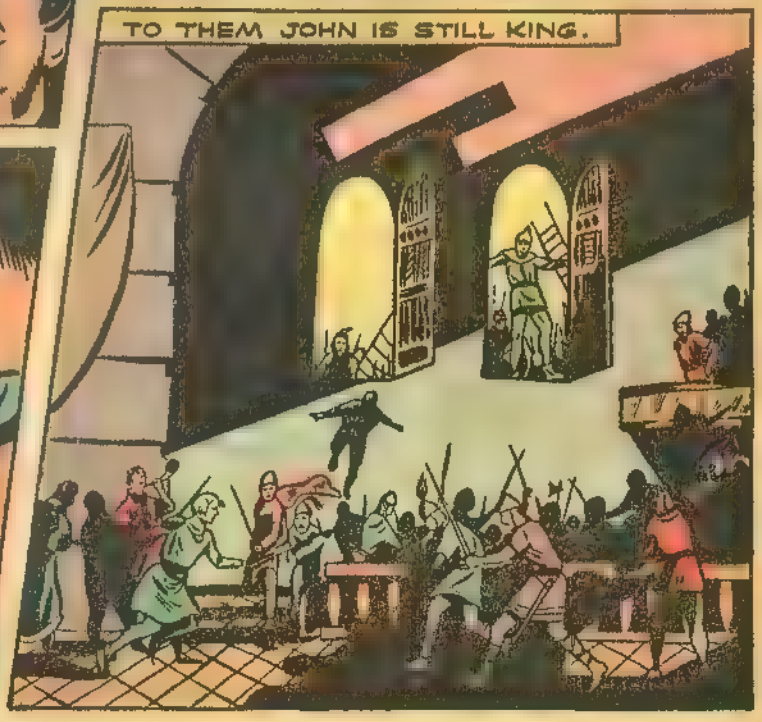
THE PROCESSION MOVES TO THE ALTAR.

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR THE ANOINTMENT!


WHEN - SUDDENLY. ..


THE BISHOP GASPS... JOHN WHIRLS AROUND...
RICHARD! YOU!!!
AY - I AM YET ALIVE... AND I CLAIM MY THRONE!

NO! NO! YOU WON'T GET IT BACK! MEN! MEN!


TO THEM JOHN IS STILL KING.

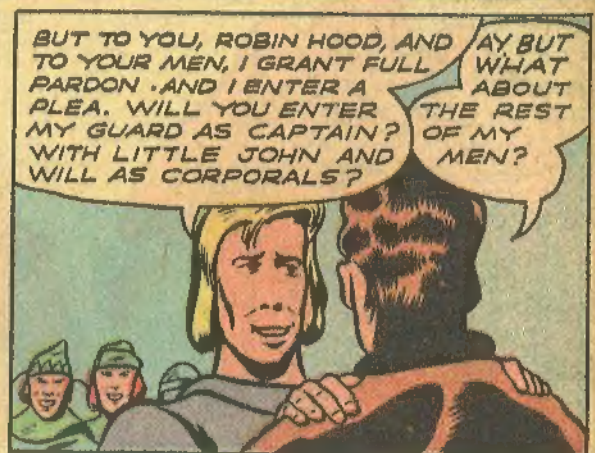
EVERYWHERE IN THE PALACE, MAN MEETS MAN IN DESPERATE FIGHT.
PLOP
THE PEOPLE'S WEAPONS - ANYTHING THEY CAN THROW!
CLANG
IN THE CHAOS ROBIN SPIES A FACE THAT HAS HOUNDED HIM...
HO - MY SWEETEST FRIEND!
I'LL SLAY YOU!
ROBIN HOOD SIDE-STEPS THE BLADE, AND LUNGES FORWARD, BUT THE SHERIFF FLEES.
COME BACK, AND LET ME FINISH WHAT YOU BEGAN!

BACK, OR I'LL THROW THE TORCH!

AS A SHAFT SPEEDS FROM ROBIN'S BOW...

THE TERRIFIED SHERIFF LOSES HIS BALANCE...
YEEEOOWW

THE FIGHT IS OVER...AND WITH IT THE END OF JOHN'S RUTHLESS REIGN.
NOW, I AM KING AGAIN.... AND LIKE I HAVE BANISHED YOUR FOLLOWERS, I BANISH YOU. IF YOU ARE NOT OUT OF ENGLAND IN TWO DAYS, YOU DIE!


BUT TO YOU, ROBIN HOOD, AND TO YOUR MEN, I GRANT FULL PARDON .AND I ENTER A PLEA. WILL YOU ENTER MY GUARD AS CAPTAIN? WITH LITTLE JOHN AND WILL AS CORPORALS?
AY BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF MY MEN?

I WILL MAKE THEM LEGAL CARETAKERS OF THE KING'S DEER!
THEY WILL BE PLEASED, FOR THEY LOVE SO TO FEED ON VENISON... WHAT SAY YOU TO THAT, MERRY MEN?

AYE!!! - AYE!!! AYE!!!
GOD SAVE THE KING!
THE END

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